Buildwise

Next Report 2025

Be part of the change

BUILD
Forward
2030

For the first time in our history, Buildwise has joined forces with other prominent partner organisations from the construction sector to realise **a master plan for the sector together: BuildForward 2030**. This plan illustrates the central role of Buildwise as a catalyst and liaison point for all building professionals.

This project is a joint development that encompasses the whole construction sector and addresses the challenging combination of sustainability, profitability and affordability.

Rather than an individual task for building professionals, the transition is a shared challenge in which collaboration is key.

The Next Report unveils this vision that is reflected in ambitious **strategic objectives**.

BuildForward 2030
Be part of the change

Building the future of the sector together

BuildForward 2030 by Buildwise
Connecting the sector

Buildwise's commitment to transforming construction

Ambitions 2025
Results and perspectives

Balance and impact: the foundations for a sustainable future


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BuildForward 2030

Be part of the change

Building the future of the sector together

Next Report 2025
Be part of the change

With the current geopolitical situation and the turbulence of recent years, there can be no doubt about it: to achieve the ambitious transformation of the construction sector, we need to be more courageous and resilient together while being more profitable, customer-oriented and sustainable at the same time. Fortunately, we hold the key to this and we know what needs to be done.

Thanks to the studies carried out by the Buildwise Vision Committee, the main challenge to realising this goal has been identified. It is both clear and complex: we need to switch to a way of thinking based on ecosystems and co-creation in order to modernise the current approach which is too linear and fragmented and does not promote innovation enough. Everyone concerned is convinced that the only way we can move forward is by working together.

So it's time for action! Working on the ecosystem was therefore the focus during the Next event of 2024, where Buildwise showcased itself as a Centre for innovation and connection. The transformation of the 'Architecture' Technical Committee into the 'Co-design process' Technical Committee in 2024 is clear proof of that, with concrete steps forwards that are currently being taken by the main stakeholders.

And that is just the beginning. In line with the Ambitions 2025 programme, Buildwise wants all the actors to come together to map out a common course for 2030. It is within this dynamic that the BuildForward 2030 plan for the sector emerged. A plan which was also the result of extensive consultation with all the stakeholders in construction. Of course, the efforts of our Technical Committees could be relied on to integrate the – sometimes very specific – needs of each specialist area. It was further enriched with the input from our sectoral partners – Embuild, Bouwunie and Constructiv – as well as the entire value chain of the construction sector. For instance, collaborative workshops brought together representatives of other innovation and research centres, architects' associations, engineering offices, construction material manufacturers and the Belgian Union for Technical Approval in Construction. The expectations of both

public and private clients were also collected via in-depth interviews and taken into account in the process.

This plan therefore not only reflects Buildwise's vision but also embodies a collective ambition shared by the whole sector.

It is not a finish line but rather a starting point. Whether you have already been involved or not, over the next few years we will continue to shape, concretise and achieve together. Join us in embracing positive change, for the benefit of us all: **be part of the change**!

BUILD Forward 2030


Thomas Scorier, Chairman

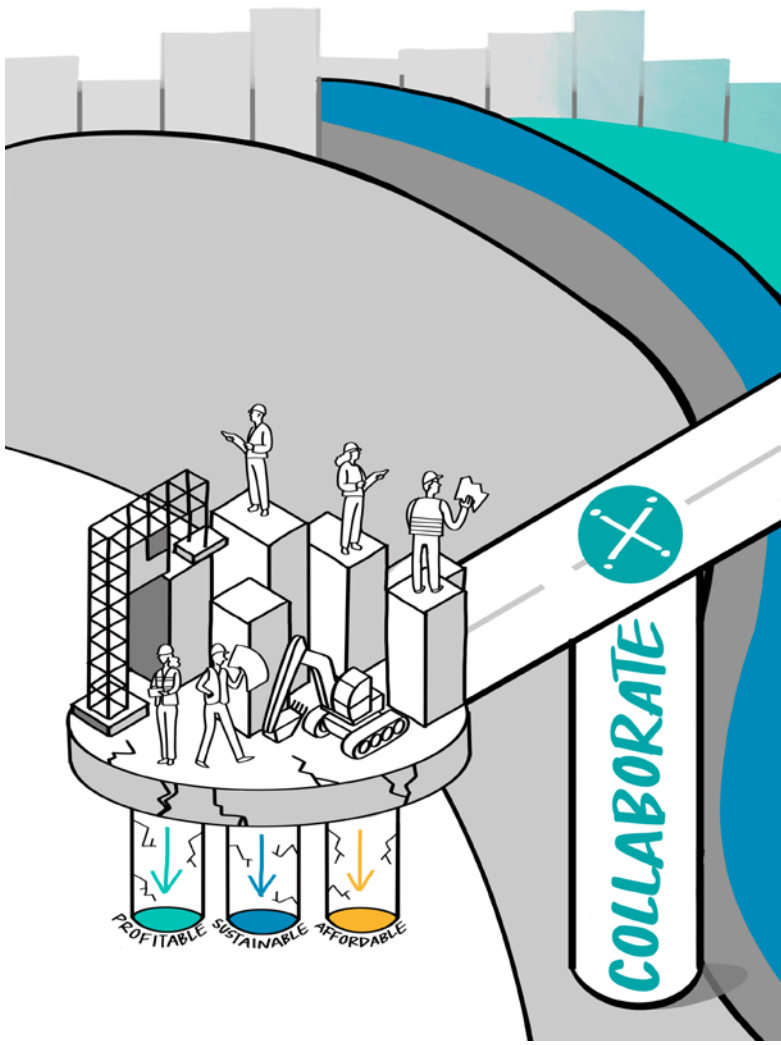

Olivier Vandooren, CEO

BuildForward 2030

The Belgian construction sector is about to undergo a major transformation. For the first time in our history, we are working together on a master plan for the sector: BuildForward 2030, an initiative of Buildwise, the knowledge and innovation centre for construction.

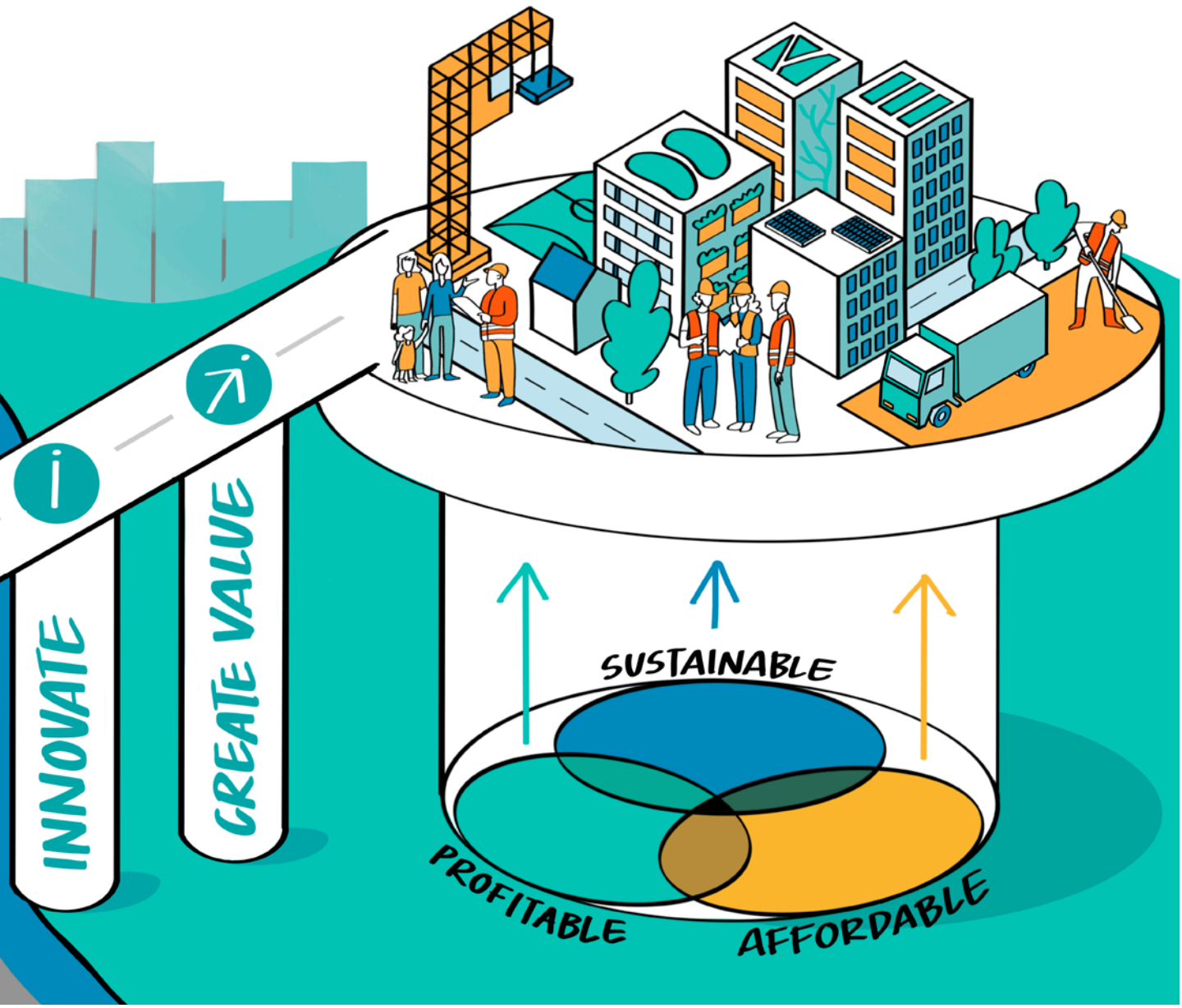
Rather than a non-binding ambition, this plan is a joint development that encompasses the whole sector. We all feel the need to improve sustainability, efficiency and integration in our work. Rather than an individual task for building professionals, the transition is a shared challenge in which collaboration is key.

Various sector organisations of contractors and installers, architects, consultancy and engineering firms, building material manufacturers and research centres have taken the lead in order to realise this transition to an ecosystem-oriented approach and better integration of production chains. After all, it is our responsibility to help the actors in the construction chain realise this change by improving the alignment of our practices and services and collaborating more intensively. Buildwise will act as the connecting link and strengthen the trust and collaboration between all the actors in the construction sector in the process.



Collaboration is the key to a stronger, more flexible sector. Only by joining forces can we reconcile economic and sustainability targets. This transition is not only necessary, it also presents a unique opportunity. With a wide network of partners and a unified vision, we are stronger than ever. The construction sector will not only become more sustainable but also more efficient and more productive in a rapidly changing world.

We are ready to help building professionals and clients with this. It is the perfect time to determine a course together and build a future where innovation and sustainability are the driving force for progress rather than obstacles to it.



Over the past few months, we have worked together intensively to identify the challenges we want to address. This has resulted in us creating the blueprint for the very first sectoral plan for the construction sector: BuildForward 2030.

At the heart of this approach are three major societal challenges which have a direct impact on construction:

- sustainability: construction with respect for people and the planet
- profitability: productivity and economic feasibility
- affordability: a strong market position for building professionals and accessible, affordable solutions for clients.

The combination of these challenges will bring tensions but the sector is determined to help building professionals with these by providing concrete solutions.

Three strategic pillars for the future

To address these challenges, we as a sector are focusing on three strategic pillars that define our joint ambitions.

1. Ecosystem thinking and collaboration: stronger together

- We position the construction sector as the driving force for sustainability.
- We promote trust between the actors within the construction chain.
- By working together to create a strong and future-proof ecosystem, we increase the added value for all actors, from building professionals to clients.

2. Technology and process: access to innovation

- We transform the construction sector into an impactful driver of innovation.
- We promote the integration of data management and digitalisation.
- We increase professionals' profitability and productivity.

3. Customer focus: value creation for client and sector

- We present the construction sector as an attractive employer.
- We help create affordable and sustainable buildings and infrastructure.
- We facilitate the development of new markets within the value chain.

With our commitment to shared societal challenges and ambitions, BuildForward 2030 is already off to a promising start. Over the next few years, it will be developed further through close collaboration between the sector organisations and the partners involved within the construction chain.

BuildForward 2030 arose from the recommendations of the studies 'Analysis of trends and impact in the (Belgian) construction sector' and 'Increased collaboration and ecosystem thinking: the future of the construction sector according to its customers' carried out by the Buildwise Vision Committee. These studies underline the need for collaboration within the sector.


Buildwise

BuildForward 2030 by Buildwise

Connecting the sector

Buildwise's commitment to transforming construction

Building a profitable and sustainable future together

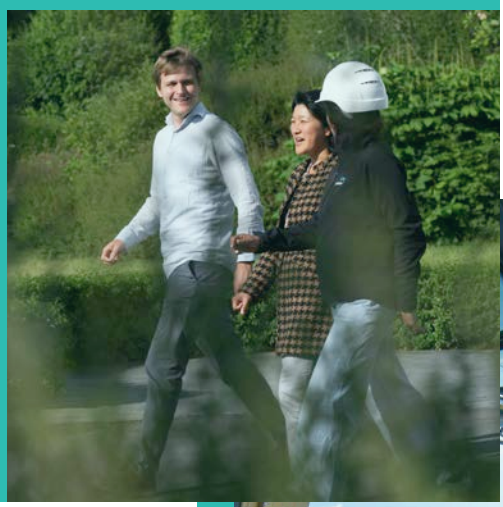
The construction sector is at a tipping point: rising costs, stricter sustainability requirements and higher customer expectations are bringing ever-increasing challenges. If we are to meet these challenges, we need to change our habits by making our buildings more sustainable, more profitable and more accessible, for instance.

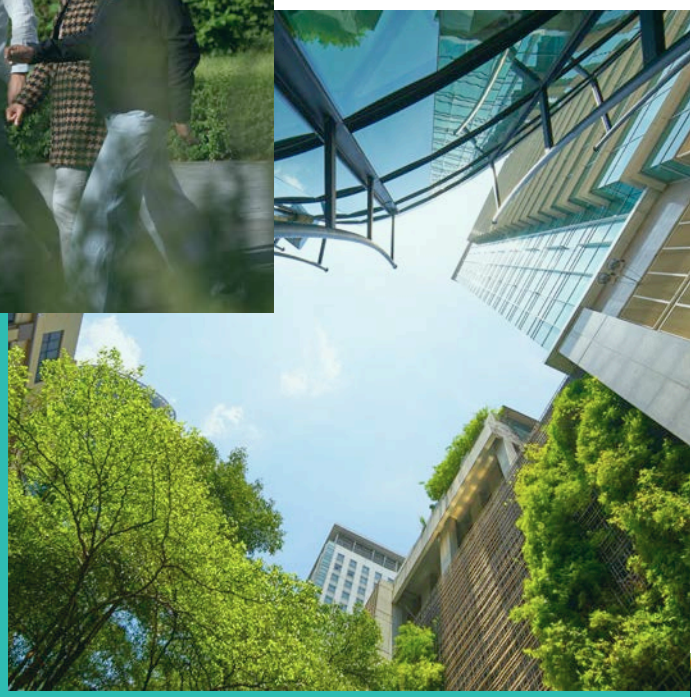
In a world that is in a constant state of flux and is becoming increasingly volatile, agility and a forward-looking approach are essential. Contractors who invest in sustainable and innovative solutions now will not only remain competitive but also help build a resilient sector.

However, the transition to more sustainable practices is no easy task due to limited financial margins, technological uncertainty and a complex regulatory framework. The reliability of investments in innovation and collaboration also often gives cause for concern. However, cautiousness presents a greater risk in the long term.

A construction sector in which sustainability, profitability and affordability go hand in hand and innovative collaboration leads to more efficient processes is not a distant dream but rather an achievable reality. Buildwise is stimulating this transition through Ambitions 2030, part of BuildForward 2030. Whoever makes the sensible decision to switch will be able to achieve the combination of sustainability, affordability and profitability. The key to success is collaboration, innovation and customer focus.

> *Through collaboration and innovation, companies can maximise their efficiency, reduce costs and strengthen their position.*





AMBITION 1 Ecosystem thinking and collaboration: stronger together

The sector still operates too often as a collection of loose links which stand in the way of innovation, efficiency and quality. To remain competitive, the sector needs to evolve into an integrated ecosystem within which collaboration and knowledge-sharing play a central role. If all players – clients, contractors, architects, consultancy firms, manufacturers, etc. – were to share responsibility, it would lead to lower costs and better solutions. Through better coordination, we can reduce waste and build smarter and better to everyone's benefit.

More strategic collaboration thanks to a shared language

Imagine a construction process in which information flows effortlessly without any misunderstandings. That is what BIM and standardised arrangements make possible. Structured data exchange facilitates collaboration, reduces errors and lowers costs.

Co-creation creates opportunities

Too often contractors are involved in the process too late for them to make any real impact. By involving them earlier on and sharing more information across the whole

construction chain, more scope is created for innovation. For instance, contractors can propose adapted materials and solutions right from the design phase. This leads to more efficient processes, better quality and often also to more affordability for the client. Well-founded, better coordinated choices from the start can make sustainable, more standardised and cost-effective solutions possible.

Ambitions 2030: the construction of tomorrow begins with collaboration

Collaboration pays off – and it can for your company too. Construction is transformed into an integrated ecosystem. Buildwise can provide you with the practical knowledge, tools and guidance that you need to collaborate more efficiently and make the right connections within the sector.

AMBITION 2 Technology and process: access to innovation

As a building professional, you know that to stand still is to go backwards. Digitalisation and industrialisation can make construction processes more transparent, shorten lead times and reduce costs. A lot of companies have already proven this by introducing innovative practices.

Smarter logistics, less waste

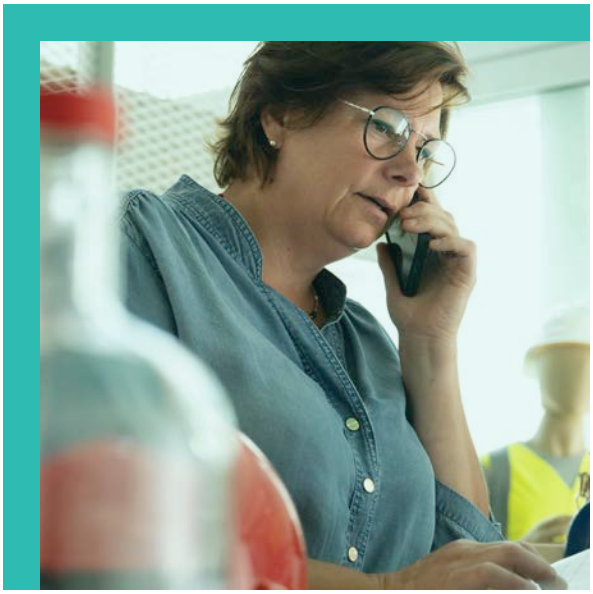
Through kitting – bundling materials and delivering them to the right place at precisely the right time – you can reduce errors, save time and increase efficiency on site. A minor intervention with a major impact on costs and scheduling.

Data and AI: from insight to action

Data is the new resource of the construction sector. Data analyses and artificial intelligence can help you manage information more efficiently and make more considered decisions. At the Buildwise Experience Centers, you can test digital technologies, follow demonstrations and find out how data can help make projects more flexible and cost-effective.

Modular construction: faster, more efficient and more sustainable

Modular construction – combining standardisation and prefabrication – enables us to build faster and with greater precision and less waste. Components that are produced under controlled conditions guarantee consistent quality, reduce errors, accelerate the construction process, lower costs and promote reuse. From modular homes to ready-made sanitary units: this approach can make construction more efficient and more profitable.



Ambitions 2030: making innovation accessible for the sector

Buildwise remains specially committed to the adoption of innovation. From best practices to digital infrastructure, we can help you apply that knowledge within your company. Now is the time to find out how you can use digitalisation and industrialisation to make your construction practices more ingenious, more sustainable and more profitable.

AMBITION 3 Customer focus: create value for client and sector

Building and renovation is not only about technology and materials but also people, sensible choices and finding a balance between sustainability, affordability and quality. The demand for energy-efficiency and circular affordable homes is growing rapidly. Anyone who commits to sustainable and economically profitable solutions now will not only be able to strengthen their competitive position but also increase their margins.

Not only build but also invest smarter

Why focus on the lowest price? By looking at the life cycle costs of a building, you can make more sustainable choices and offer more value in the long term. This perspective helps contractors and clients make well-considered financial and future-proof decisions.

More freedom, more margin with performance contracts

Why follow strict regulations if only the end result matters? Performance contracts provide more flexibility. Instead of meeting detailed technical requirements, you deliver a building that meets precise quality criteria (noise, insulation, stability, etc.), using materials that produce a low level of CO_2 emissions. Buildwise can provide you with tried and tested methods and test solutions to help you.

Full-service construction: from project to long-term customer relationships

What if construction didn't stop on completion? New business models enable you to integrate maintenance, monitoring and even energy management (heat as a service). This complete solution delivers a stable income stream and will strengthen your market position.

Future-oriented (re)construction: what really works?

Not everything new is effective too. Buildwise can help you distinguish real advancements from trends. From flood protection barriers to the reuse of rainwater: just tried and tested solutions for your projects.

Ambitions 2030: Buildwise as a guide for guaranteed quality

Sustainable construction is a necessary step. Buildwise is your guide and compass for steering you towards a construction process with fewer risks, greater customer satisfaction and better margins.

Time for action

The construction sector is in a crucial transition phase. Traditional ways of working are becoming less and less profitable. Anyone who fails to innovate risks higher costs and a weaker competitive position.

Buildwise has taken on a key role with Ambitions 2030. Over the next five years, these three ambitions – a strengthened ecosystem, accessible innovations and customer focus – will lead the sector to a more sustainable future. This will give construction professionals the opportunity not only to achieve their economic goals but also to have an impact on society.

Would you like to improve collaboration, innovation and customer focus? Buildwise supports you with practical knowledge and guidance to successfully apply new technologies and methods in your projects.

Want to make your business stronger, more sustainable and more profitable? Discover how Buildwise's Ambitions 2030 can help you achieve this.

Building a future-oriented sector together: our DNA

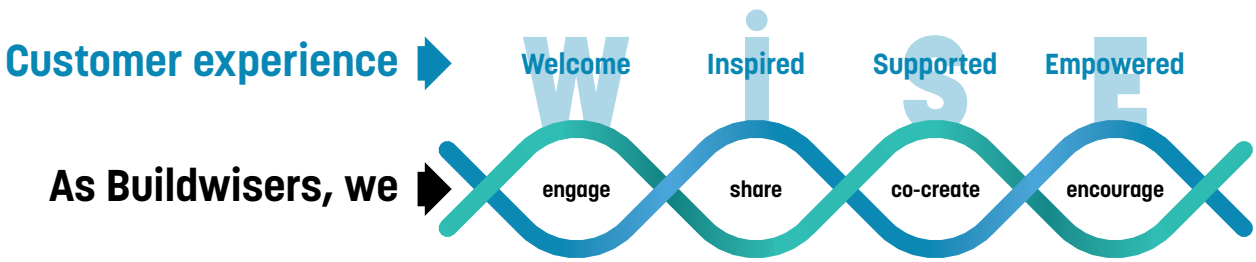
With the BuildForward 2030 sector plan, we are committed together with everyone involved in construction to creating a sector where sustainability, profitability, accessibility and value for the customer go hand in hand.

Current and future challenges require an integrated approach. At Buildwise, we believe that collaboration can only succeed if there is a shared vision and clear values.

To provide optimal support for the sector, we have defined our values more clearly and translated them into concrete behaviour. These values serve as an internal compass for our 300+ employees and form the **DNA of Buildwise** and the basis for strong collaboration with our partners.

Values as a lever for change

At Build**WISE**, we want everyone who comes into contact with us to have four essential experiences: to feel **W**elcome, find **I**nspiration, receive **S**upport and experience **E**mpowerment. To that end, our employees take on an active role as partners: they share their knowledge with passion, work closely with the players and encourage initiative. Through this positioning, we are able to strengthen our ties with the sector and make concrete impact. As Build**WISE**rs, we are committed to recreating this experience every day.



By joining forces based on shared values, we can build the future of our sector.

A work climate that stimulates innovation and collaboration

The values that lie in our DNA can only really come to life in a work environment that supports them. That is why we are building a culture of inclusion, collaboration, excellence and a favourable environment for experimenting. We also stimulate entrepreneurship which accelerates innovation and strengthens our role as a connecting factor in the sector.

Leadership as a catalyst for change

A strong culture stands or falls on leadership. Our managers promote team spirit, challenge employees constructively, encourage exploration and inspire trust and ownership. This has made Buildwise not just a knowledge centre but also an inspiring network.

Leadership is about more than just giving direction: it is also about stimulating team members and getting them to experiment and develop themselves. A good manager challenges his/her employees to come up with solutions and supports them by providing the right network and the necessary resources. This increases ownership and boosts innovation.

From internal values to sectoral impact

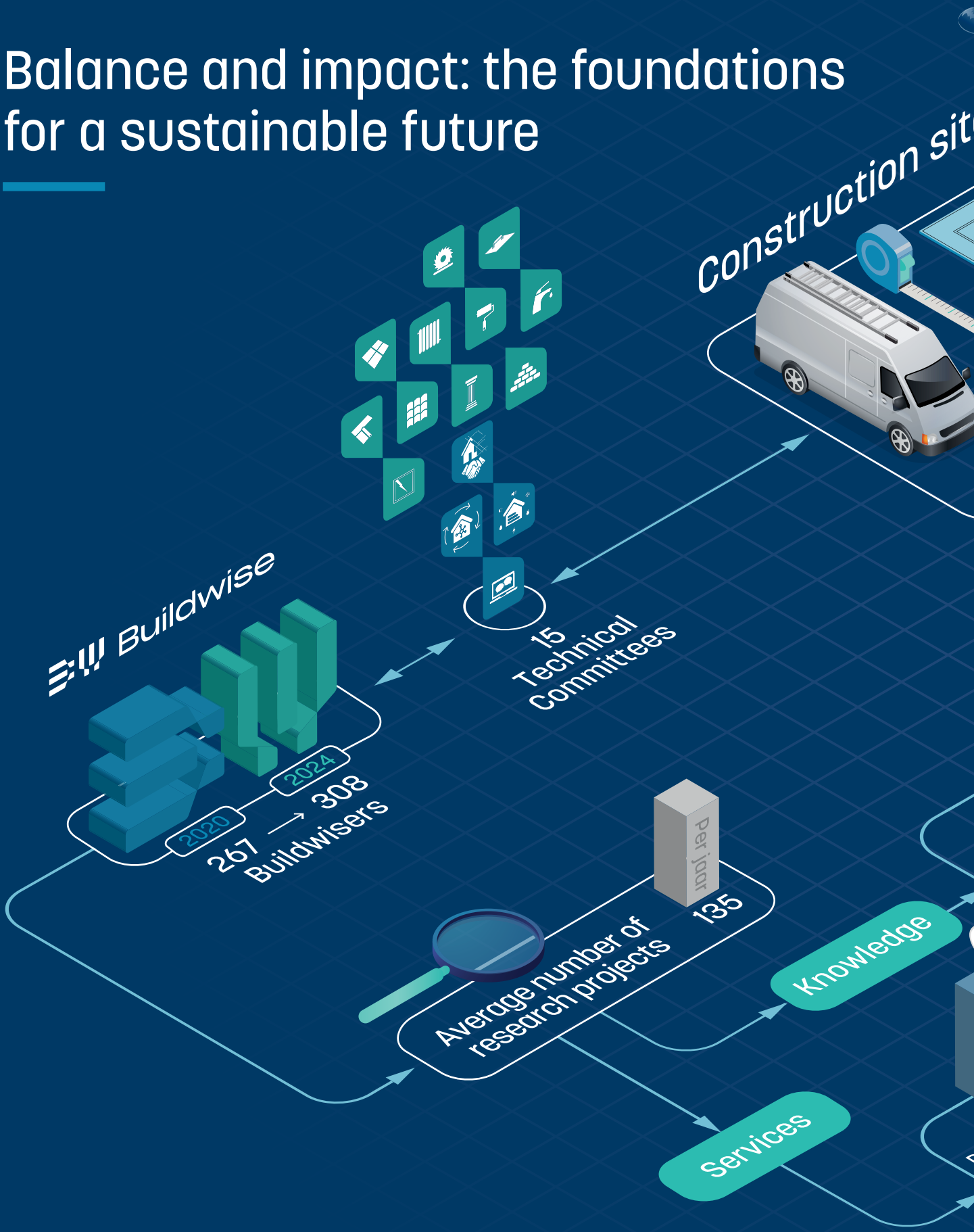
The future of the sector is not only about technology but also collaboration. The values we embed within Buildwise help create a sector where sustainable, affordable and customer-oriented solutions are the norm. By joining forces based on our shared values, we can continue to build the future of the construction sector. BuildForward 2030 starts here.

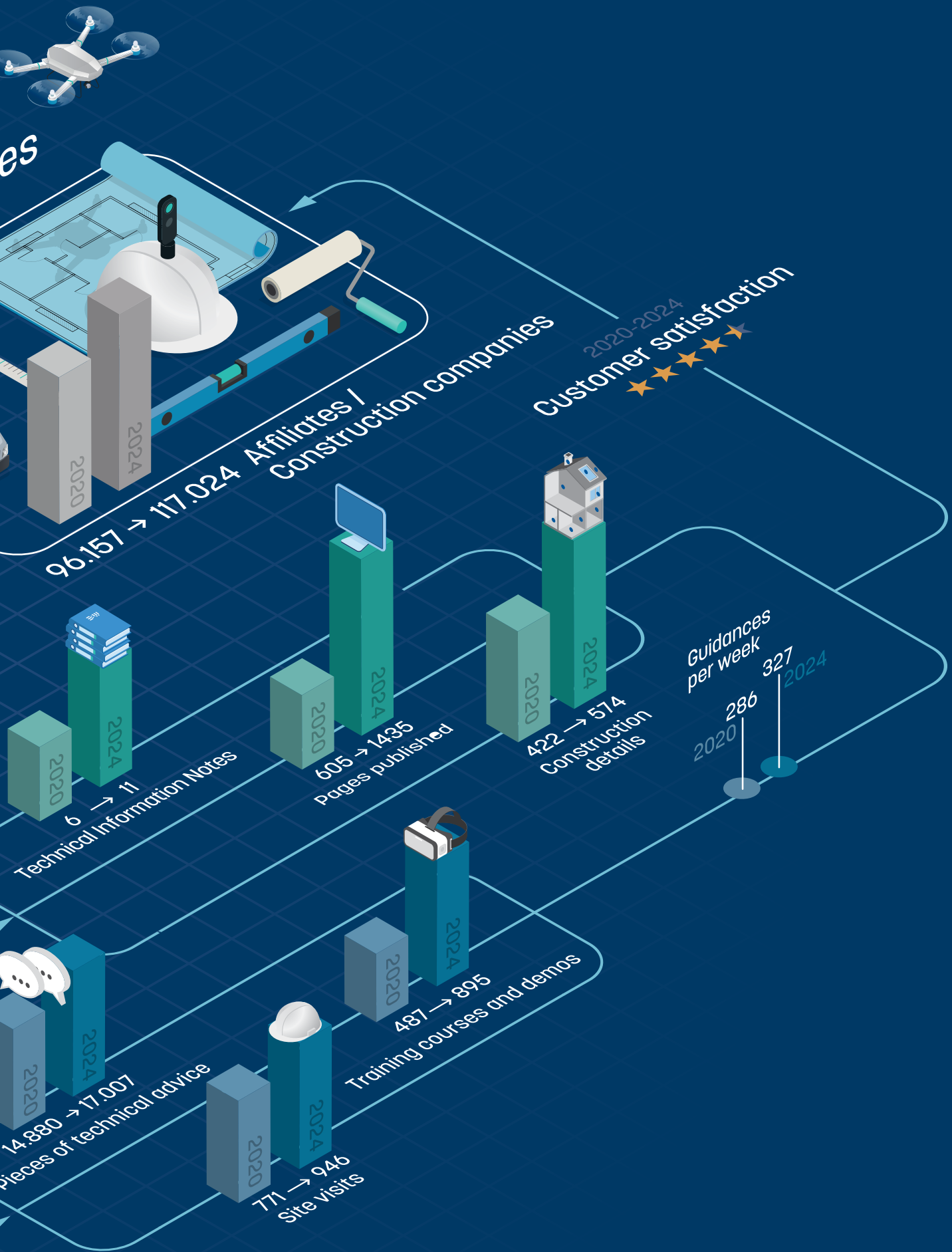
Ambitions 2025

Results and perspectives

Balance and impact: the foundations for a sustainable future

Balance and impact: the foundations for a sustainable future




es
96.157 → 117.024 Affiliates / Construction companies
2020
2024
2020-2024
Customer satisfaction
6 → 11
Technical Information Notes
605 → 1435
Pages published
422 → 574
Construction details
Guidances per week
2020
286
2024
327
14.880 → 17.007
pieces of technical advice
487 → 895
Training courses and demos
771 → 946
Site visits

Personalised communication and AI for more impact

Over the past five years, Buildwise has taken significant steps to coordinate its services better to the needs of contractors and installers. We use personalised communication, digital tools and innovative technologies to help building professionals work more efficiently and effectively.

We make relevant knowledge more easily accessible based on feedback via our Technical Committees, Vision Committee and customer satisfaction surveys in order to deploy our communication tools correctly and in a targeted manner.

Targeted communication campaigns

Buildwise has developed a specific strategy for putting certain subject areas and topics within the construction sector in front of the right target audience. We use campaigns on social media, e-mails and other channels to provide our members and other construction professionals with relevant information compiled based on subject area. This makes it easy for everyone to stay up-to-date. Examples of campaigns include 'Trente questions fréquemment posées par les installateurs', 'Le bois ? La bonne voie' and our videos on heat pumps.

Relevant customised information via Buildwise Magazine and newsletters

The content of our Buildwise Magazine and our newsletters is also personalised. We send out a different newsletter every week: a general edition, one for professionals on the building envelope, a third relating to finishes and a final one on technical installations. As a result, on average more than 40 % of the recipients – nearly 15 % above the average for the sector – open our newsletters and every professional receives information that relates to his or her specialist field.

Self-management via MonBuildwise

MonBuildwise is a central platform that we have developed where users can manage their data themselves: set preferences for newsletters, amend details and manage language and billing preferences. This has improved ease of use and made our services even more relevant.

360° view of our customers via CRM

Thanks to our new CRM system, we will have a complete customer view from May 2025 and we will be able to follow up requests even more efficiently. This is not an unnecessary luxury, with more than 17,000 pieces of advice and more than 900 training courses and demonstrations aimed at providing efficient and personal support every year.

AI as the driving force behind customer-oriented innovation

We use artificial intelligence to improve internal processes such as editing and translation and the compiling of reports. This enables us to share knowledge quicker and improve the quality of our replies. Advanced algorithms and AI-generated avatars enable us to provide even more relevant content. In 2025, an intelligent chatbot will help construction professionals carry out their day-to-day activities by providing effortless access to the information they need on our website.

A look at the future

The evolution aimed at making construction professionals the focal point of our services continues. We will continue to invest in innovation and digitalisation in order to build a future together with and for the sector where technology and expertise strengthen each other.

From insight to impact: the profession in motion

Together, the evolution of our Technical Committees, the strengthening of technical support, the realisation of targeted studies and the deployment of expertise have enhanced the resilience and competitiveness of the Belgian construction sector. Through our actions, we are responding to the challenges that companies are currently facing while shaping the ambitions for 2030 and the future of the sector at the same time.

Technical Committees: the driving force behind our activities

Our 15 **Technical Committees** (TCs) play a central role in determining the activities of Buildwise. 11 TCs focus on specific building trades while 4 concentrate on broader, transversal themes. In total, they bring together 500 construction professionals, most of whom are contractors and installers. Now more than ever, thanks to their continuous development and active involvement in drawing up our annual work plans, they provide an essential link between practice on site and Buildwise.

In 2024, we expanded our activities further by setting up the **'Co-design process' Technical Committee** which focuses on closer collaboration between all parties involved from the design phase. The aim is to optimise customer satisfaction through

Under the motto 'Sharing inspiration and vision as a driver for progress and innovation in construction', the Vision Committee, which was established in the run-up to our ambitions for 2020-2025, offers a clear perspective on the evolution of the construction sector in the medium and long term. It thus forms a valuable addition to the activities of the Technical Committees.

Over the past five years, the Vision Committee has conducted various studies on crucial themes such as digital transformation, circularity, urban development, financing and affordability, megatrends and their implications, collaborations within ecosystems and the role of artificial intelligence in the Belgian construction sector.

better quality and cost management and promote innovation.

Our TCs are supported by various working groups (WGs) and specific committees including the 'Climate Roof' WG and the Renovation Committee. With no less than 1,000 committed professionals, they fulfil a key role in steering our activities.

Technical support and involvement on site

The technical support provided by our engineers has become an essential service for the sector. We have helped countless professionals through our technical advice, site visits and practice-oriented publications. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of cases handled rose by almost 25 %, an increase comparable to that in respect of the number of site interventions which went up to almost 1,000 in 2024.

Some building problems have increased significantly in recent years. In particular, moisture-related defects (+30 %) and complications in the field of renovations and construction details (+60 %) have been arising more and more frequently. Our 100+ Pathologies sheets and more than 250 trade-specific FAQs respond to this, serving as essential sources of reference that provide contractors with clear and accessible technical solutions.

The support we provide goes further than mere technical assistance. Our experts also guide companies on an organisational level via group and company training courses.

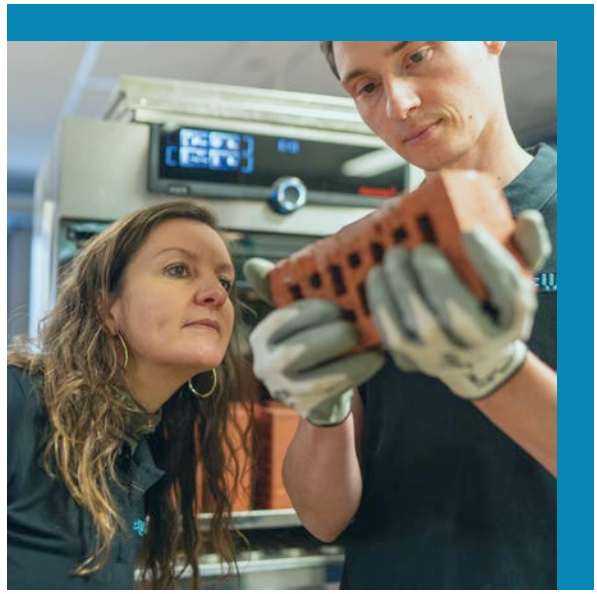
In addition, our Connection Tours – a joint venture with Constructiv, Embuild and Bouwunie – have further strengthened our ties with practice. The first edition in 2023 looked at energy renovation while the second edition in 2024 focused on improving the profitability of construction companies. With almost 3,000 participants, these events clearly demonstrate the high level of interest within the sector in this type of initiative.

Studies and research as the answer to technical challenges

At Buildwise, we have conducted various studies and research projects to find concrete solutions to the challenges faced by contractors. They have been financed in-house, within a prenormative framework, or via other channels. They are often carried out at the request of the TCs and constitute a valuable addition to our reference documents such as TINs and specialised articles.

Because some construction defects recur regularly, we carried out a number of studies to identify the causes of these and develop sustainable solutions in response to the needs of the sector including:

- the shifting of the roof upstand
- the corrosion of hot zinc roofs
- paint coming away from brickwork
- the acoustic performances of the connections between external joinery and ETICS
- the reaction to fire of timber façade cladding.



Innovation: concrete application in the field

Other research projects and innovations have been grouped together by theme in our project showroom with the aim of developing practical solutions and disseminating them widely within the sector via publications, training and other knowledge-sharing initiatives. By doing this, we are helping to shape the evolution of building practice in Belgium.

Special attention was paid to the compilation and dissemination of essential reference documents for construction professionals. Over the past five years, we have published more than 40 TINs and Innovation Papers (IPs) covering a wide range of topics for different trades.

The TINs are valuable reference works with regard to the following, for example:

- 'Building envelope' cluster (roofs, façades) and general contracting work:

concrete structures, construction of brickwork, temporary work platforms for foundation works, temporary site drainage facilities, flat and sloping roofs, metal roof coverings, installation of joinery, timber frame construction
- 'Technical installations' cluster: underfloor heating, ventilation of residential buildings, risk of corrosion in heating systems, fireproof sealing
- 'Finishes' cluster: parquet flooring, terraces, plastering, resin-bonded floors, installation of glass internal walls, ETICS
- important transversal themes: acoustic comfort in homes, propagation of fire via façades.

In addition, our IPs cover emerging themes and trends within the sector: lean construction, construction logistics, green façades, 3D concrete printing, smart buildings, biobased insulation, etcetera. All are topics that will help determine the future of the construction sector.

To maximise the impact of these publications, we also provide accessible and interactive formats: short articles, Pathologies sheets, videos, webinars, animations, technical details, and so on. These are widely disseminated via our website, newsletters, social media and training courses.

Construction details were central to the support we provided, with a strong focus on renovation, via the BE REEL! project and TIN 293 and TIN 294, for example. Our database of construction details has become the most visited part of our website, with almost 570 references in 2D, 3D and sometimes even accompanied by an animation.

To improve the learning process even more, we have also developed educational models on topics such as the sealing of showers, upstands and the connection between flat and sloping roofs. These are used during our training courses and demos.

An integrated approach: the example of heat pumps

The success of the integrated heat pump trajectory is a perfect example of how we can combine research, communication and training to accelerate the application of new technologies in practice. This approach included in-depth research, an extensive communication campaign with professional and educational videos, a training cycle during our 2024 winter courses, calculation tools (such as PowerHeat and HeatLoad) and a special theme page on buildwise.be where all essential information is clearly grouped together.

Green Deal: building a sustainable future

The transition to a green, sustainable economy will provide the construction sector with extra jobs and new opportunities. At European, national and regional level, focus will be strongly directed towards energy renovation and the refurbishment of existing building stock. These measures will promote both environmental benefit as well as economic growth and employment.

The ambitions of Buildwise for circular construction, energy transition and renovation and climate-adaptive construction have been translated into research and development, demonstrations and pilot projects, publications and training.

Renovation

The objective of the European Green Deal is for Europe to be climate-neutral by 2050. The renovation of existing buildings is crucial for this. Belgium therefore needs to increase its rate of renovation drastically.

Energy renovation is an ambitious challenge that requires not only technical but other solutions too. Buildwise is supporting this transition with innovative market mechanisms and industrialised renovation techniques but also by providing contractors with practical support in the form of diagnostic instruments, digital tools and robust renovation details.

The RENO+ project has accelerated energy renovations in homes by providing standardised and reproducible technical solutions to increase efficiency and reduce costs and administrative hassle. One example is the joint venture with Braine-l'Alleud which involved tackling the insulation of 30 roofs as part of a collective renovation project.

> *The construction sector will play a key role in the transition to a carbon-neutral society.*

Buildwise is tackling the challenge of digitalisation and industrialised renovation techniques with the 'energy leap renovation': a (virtually) energy-neutral home based on digital preparation, off-site production and minimal implementation time and nuisance. The living lab project Modul'Air and the Life projects COSME Reno and GigaRegioFactory will give the sector the opportunity to learn about this principle.

The development of renovation details, diagnostic tools (such as RenoCheck) and digital measuring tools means that practical support is also available for renovation contractors.

Buildwise continues to focus on new market mechanisms, technological innovation and robust solutions for contractors. Looking forward to 2030, this lever is also necessary to give the sector the capacity and instruments required to meet renovation objectives.

Climate adaptation

We are already experiencing the effects of climate change, with more frequent heatwaves, longer dry spells and more intense precipitation. Hence the focus of the themed edition of the Buildwise Magazine in 2024 on climate adaptation. The Belgian construction sector can help create a more liveable environment by providing solutions for water management and reducing the risks of flooding and of buildings overheating.

After the floods in Wallonia in 2021, flood-resilient building and renovating in areas prone to flooding has become a necessity and a priority. Buildwise has therefore actively focused on this problem, by developing new practices for applying individual flood prevention products, including requirements, conditions and points to consider for correct installation. Thanks to the FLOOD prenormative study, we can offer clients faced with a flood risk and specialist contractors a range of products that

is guaranteed to provide the resistance required.

In addition, Buildwise is focussing on measures for foundations and run-off, with practical tools and recommendations for preventing the risk of subsidence and fissures or cracks in homes due to shrinkage and swelling during extremely dry or extremely wet periods (SOLPLAS).

However, the drought problem ('Gestion des eaux souterraines dans les projets de construction' and 'Construire en tenant compte de la pénurie d'eau' from COOCK+) and the implementation of rainwater and greywater installations (WATERWIJZER, also COOCK+) continue to be priorities of Buildwise too.

Biomaterials and greenery

Buildwise is fully committed to innovation in construction, focussing in particular on integrating greenery in buildings. This led to the publication of the Innovation Paper 'Façades végétalisées' as a result of a number of studies such as 'Les toitures et façades végétalisées dans nos villes futures' (EcoCities) and recommendations regarding green roofs.

A complementary innovation route focuses on the use of materials, with Buildwise aiming to reduce the ecological footprint of construction materials by targeting circular construction and biobased materials in particular. Examples include the CBCI Interreg project, the KLIMAATDAK (COOCK+) project and the recently launched Build-Value project.

In addition, Buildwise also focussed specifically on joiners with the PMeDuBois prenormative study, which investigated new environmentally-friendly formulations for wood preservation treatments.

From reuse to circular construction

Construction and demolition waste constitutes the largest waste stream in Europe but fortunately, the demolition of existing buildings can serve as a source of raw materials for new buildings (urban mining).

Buildwise is continuing its waste management activities with projects such as $(CD)^2$ and developing practical tools and catalogues for contractors. In addition, ecosystems are also being created in order to make urban mining a standard construction practice via the 'SloopTeams' living lab project.

Buildwise also pays extra attention to the reuse of construction materials, at the request of various Technical Committees. The FCRBE and Digital Deconstruction Interreg projects will be continued in normative studies so that in the short term, the sector will have a horizontal standard for the technical performances of reused building materials (H-REUSE).

Circular and green concrete

Concrete – the most commonly used building material – also has the biggest climate impact. Buildwise is investigating how this impact can be reduced through the application of alternative granulates, recycling and reuse as well as new implementation methods, both in laboratories and via demonstration projects on site.

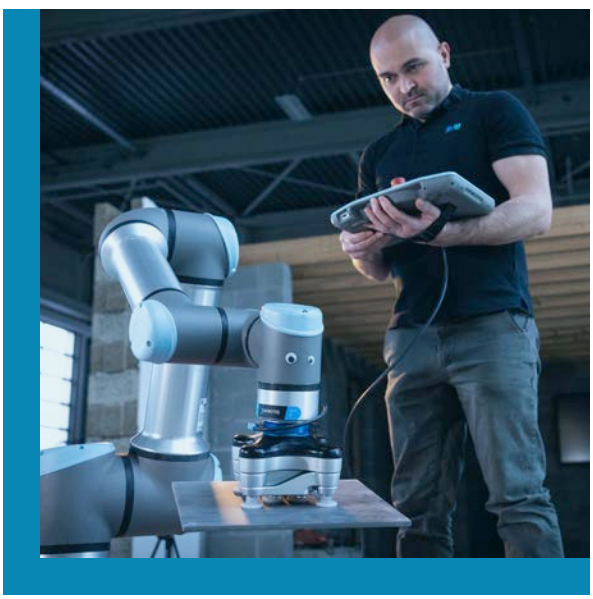
In addition to the use of recycled granulates, Buildwise has been investing in the use of other types of cement and new binders for use in the production of circular concrete. For instance, the NEOCEM normative study is investigating the criteria for assessing the suitability for use of new types of cement.

Buildwise is also working closely with the sector through the Concrete Circularity Center project in order to ensure that technological and scientific knowledge gained regarding sustainable concrete is swiftly adopted within the field.

Construction 4.0: innovative technologies strengthen construction practice

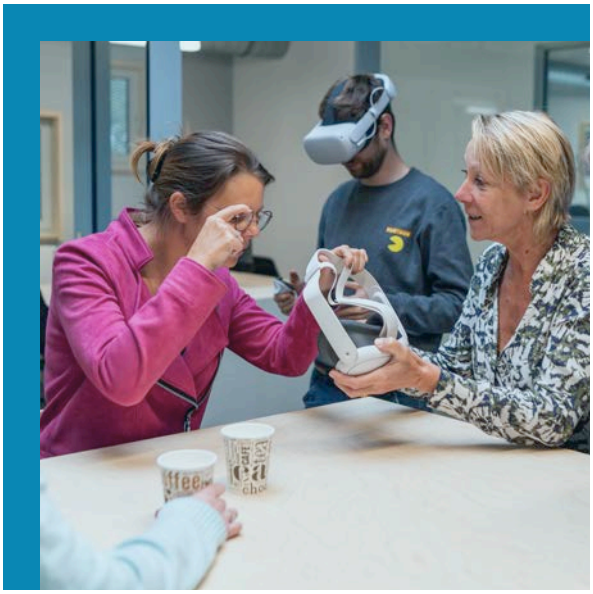
In recent years, the construction sector has experienced an unprecedented transformation due to accelerated digitalisation and the increasing application of innovative technologies. Given the challenges, Buildwise has a key responsibility to help contractors manage their projects more efficiently and intelligently. In addition, the development of our Experience Centers in Limelette and Zaventem has helped broaden the accessibility of technologies and furthered the training of construction professionals.

Major progress has been made over the past five years, laying the foundations for Ambitions 2030. Through strategic initiatives, Buildwise is helping shape the digital landscape of the construction sector and strengthen companies' competitiveness and sustainability.



Buildwise Experience Centers: hubs for digital innovation

In 2024, our Experience Centers welcomed over 35 % more visitors than the previous year. As platforms for the exchange and transfer of know-how, they give both big and small companies the opportunity to discover and apply advanced technological tools and pragmatic solutions tailored to the construction sector.



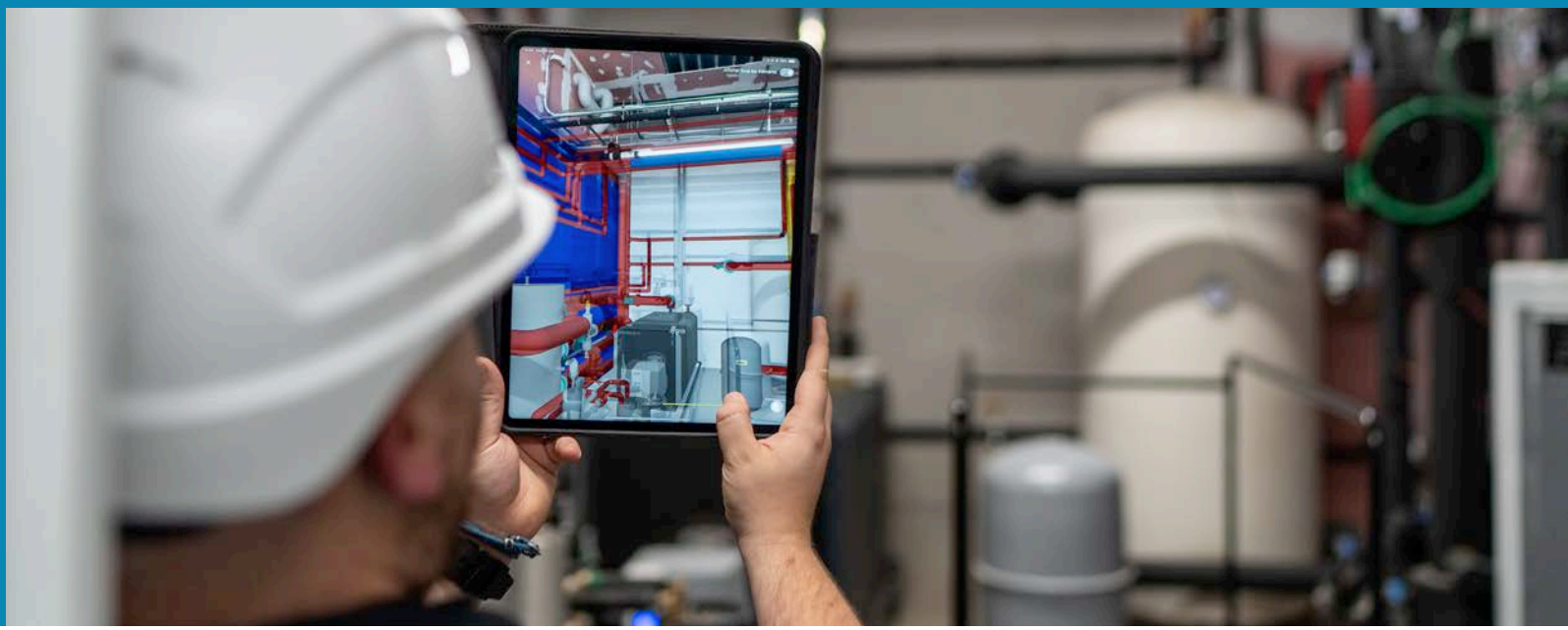
This year, we have made further progress with the application of digital technologies in practice. For instance, our Experience Centers have been using immersive reality to help contractors master implementation practices. Thanks to the success of these centres, thousands of specialists have taken part in inspiring training courses, demonstrations and workshops on topics such as BIM, artificial intelligence (AI) and data management.

Our centres have also played a key role in implementing and testing low- and high-tech solutions such as 360° cameras, 3D concrete printing, 2D and 3D measurement techniques, drones for site inspection and preparation and robotic, cobotic and CNC solutions (computer numerical control). Finally, we have also helped companies improve their project management via approaches such as advanced planning and lean methodology.

The **Data Connection Center** is an important pillar of our strategy to help industry optimise the use of data. In 2024, we implemented an infrastructure for collecting and analysing real-time data from construction sites and engineering structures. That information is then used to refine project forecasts and manage resources efficiently.

The aim of the Data Connection Center is to optimise decision-making processes through the integration of the Internet of Things (IoT), data collected on site and the targeted use of artificial intelligence.

Last year, various partner companies were able to reduce their operating costs and improve the organisation of their construction sites thanks to this centre.



Artificial intelligence (AI): driver for innovation

AI has become an important driving force behind the digital transformation. In 2024, we stepped up our investments in AI projects, focussing on the integration of concrete solutions in line with the needs of the sector.

One notable initiative was the introduction of **intelligent avatars**. These tools not only made the dissemination of technical knowledge easier but also made our demonstrations and training more interactive and dynamic for our partners.

Buildwise also entered into **new partnerships** with strategic partners from the sector in order to further optimise business management processes.

BIM: a catalyst for the digital transformation of the sector

Building Information Modeling (BIM) remains a key pillar within our innovation strategy. We have launched a range of initiatives to accelerate its application.

For instance, the **ISO 19650 Wiki** which is accessible via our website is an essential tool for companies looking to understand and implement the BIM process. This guide will help you tackle the challenges associated with information management throughout a project's life cycle and is indispensable for all relevant parties within the sector.

To make learning more interactive, we also developed the Information management game to help you understand the principles of ISO 19650. This tool makes it easy to identify who needs to provide what information to whom and when.

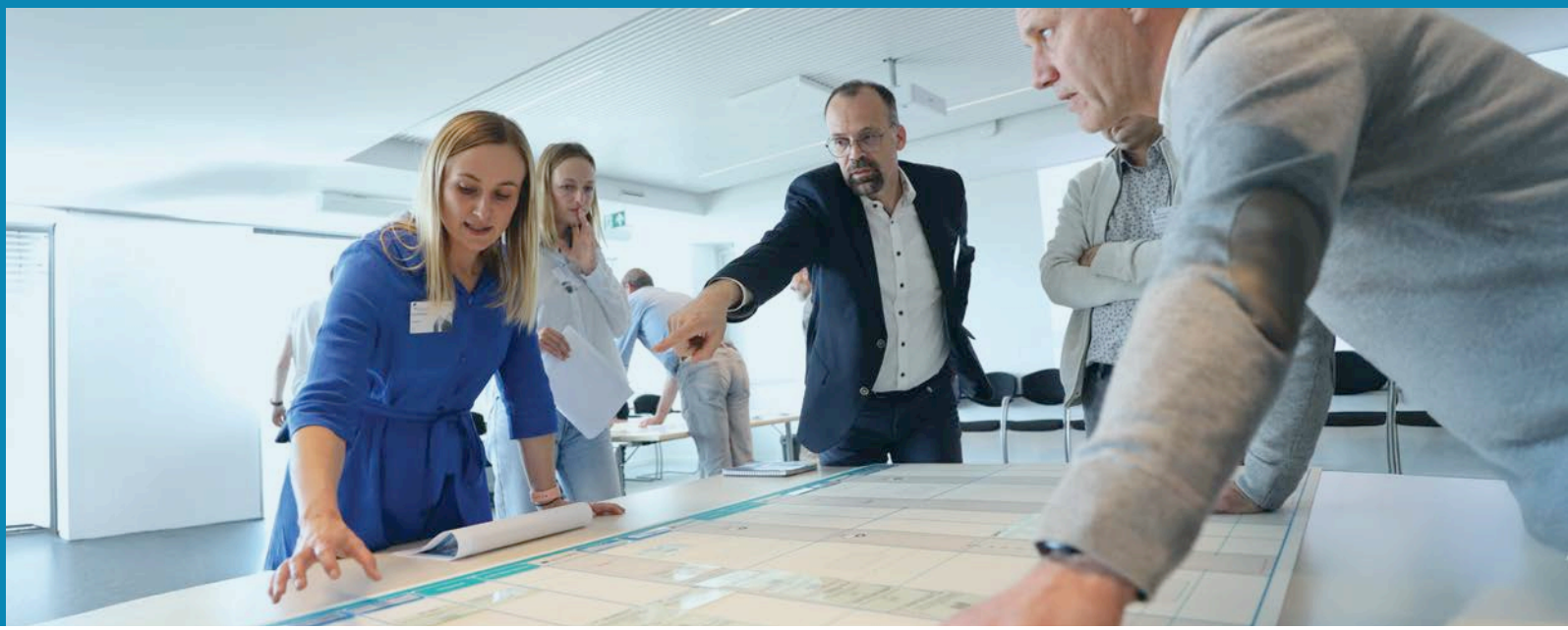
BIMids and NLBE-SfB: towards wider use in Belgium

Today, **BIMids** represents a central part of our efforts to improve the quality and uniformity of BIM models. The platform provides precise recommendations on the information required for each object depending on its use and current phase, thus avoiding inconsistent, individual models. BIMids (which is shared with Luxembourg) helps users apply the principles of ISO 7817 correctly.

At the same time, collaboration with Ketenstandaard and DigiGO in the Netherlands resulted in a common classification system: **NLBE-SfB**. This optimised version of existing systems provides a standardised structure for all aspects of a construction (such as architecture, stability and special techniques) and is tailored to both the Dutch and the Belgian construction sector.

NLBE-SfB helps companies structure and organise BIM data better, making it easier to manage and share data throughout the project. Stimulating cross-border digital collaboration also ensures compatibility with international standards.

In recent years, we have taken important steps in terms of our commitment to the digital transformation of the construction sector. Thanks to investments in technologies such as AI and BIM, Buildwise has not only increased project efficiency but also helped achieve smoother information management with greater interoperability. More than ever, we are ready to take on the challenges of tomorrow and guide the sector towards targeted and accessible digitalisation for all stakeholders.



Statutory bodies

As agreed during the meeting held on 28 November 2023, the current number of mandates will be divided between four bodies due to the mandatory revision of the statutes. The following compositions were proposed and approved for these bodies:

General Council and General Advisory Council

Chairman: T. Scorier

Vice-Chairmen: J. Lembrechts, C. Maes and L. Mohymont

Honorary chairmen: J. Gheysens, R. Lenaers and J. Willemen

Members: G. Baert, Y. Biesmans, M. Bonten, R. Collette, P. Cuppens, A. De Cesco, B. De Malsche, N. Demeester, N. De Smet, P. De Stobbeleir, B. De Sutter, G. De Vlaminck, J. Debuf, H. Demeyere, V. Dethier, M. Diku Biduaya, O. Eugene, S. Faignet, B. Georges, A. Gillin, B. Heiderscheidt, D. Hellemans, G. Jansens, S. Kaye, K. Kempeneers, E. Leskens, A. Levêque, S. Magnée, G. Mahaux, O. Mareschal, S. Maris, H. Michot, K. Neyrinck, P. Pattyn, C. Peeters, J. Pérard, D. Peytier, B. Piron, J. Polet, A. Renders, B. Schrevens, W. Simoens, E. Spitzer, W. Straetmans, C. Suarez, P. Suys, B. Tasiaux, M. Thérer, V. Van Esbroeck, P. Van Impe, B. Van Poppel, E. Van Rumst, J. Vandycke, F. Verkest, E. Vigoureux, N. Vromant, D. Wattel and J.-P. Waeytens

Standing Committee and Standing Advisory Committee

Chairman: T. Scorier

Vice-Chairmen: J. Lembrechts, C. Maes and L. Mohymont

Members: R. Collette, A. De Cesco, N. Demeester, G. De Vlaminck, A. Gillin, K. Kempeneers, K. Neyrinck, P. Pattyn, B. Piron, A. Renders, M. Roovers and J.-P. Waeytens

Technical Committees and Vision Committee

The activities of Buildwise are guided by a Vision Committee and fifteen Technical Committees. Eleven of them represent a specific construction trade and mainly consist of contractors; the others focus on cross-sector topics. In a bottom-up approach, each Committee draws up an annual work plan that is submitted to the Buildwise Standing Committee for approval.

Vision Committee

Chairman: T. Willemen
Members: P. Carels, D. Cartage, C. Deiteren, N. Demeester, K. Dethier, I. De Bruyne, T. De Wever, H. de Troostembergh, M. Dillen, P.-A. Franck, J.-P. Geerts, H. Kempeneers, C. Lhoste, M. Moens, L. Mohymont, K. Neyrinck, Y. Renier, T. Scorier, W. Straetmans, P. Suys, O. Taspinar, F. Tourné, K. Vande Voorde, T. Vandenbergh, J.-C. Vanderhaegen, T. Van Put, J. Venstermans (U), H. Verboven, F. Verstraete and A. Waha
Buildwisers: K. Caubergs, B. Ingelaere, S. Oosterlinck, O. Vandooren and J. Vyncke

Rough Structure and General Contractors

Chairman: M. Roovers
Members: K. Andries, L. Courard, C. De Cesco, G. De Schutter, P. De Vylder, J. Deceuster, F. Demeulemeester, R. Dhuyvetter, P. Dresse, B. Geentjens, P. Goetinck, J. Govaerts, C. Grancitelli, M.-L. Heyndrickx, P. Heyns, N. Huybrechts, P. ibens, S. Kaye, F. Lederer, F. Marchand, A. Parewyck, P. Pirotton, T. Robette, S. Scharlaken, M. Séculier, T. Spapens, R. Van Acker, D. Van Campenhout, T. Van Put, E. Vandewiele, A. Vermeyen and J. Willen
Engineers-leaders: V. Dieryck and A. Van der Auwera

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Advisers: R. de Longrée and L. Dekeyser

Concrete Structures Committee

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Leaders: J. Piérard and P. Van Itterbeeck
Adviser: B. Vanhauwere

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Leader: N. Denies
Adviser: A. Van der Auwera.

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Advisers: K. Janssens and T. Rondou

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Engineers-leaders: D. De Bock and E. Noirfalisse
Adviser: L. Geerts

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Engineer-leader: Y. Grégoire
Adviser: M. Lignian

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Engineers-leaders: L. De Geetere, K. De Proft, J. Goovaerts, M. Lignian, X. Loncour and J. Van der Veken

Hygrothermy

Chairman: M. Ruebens
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Engineers-leaders: X. Loncour and J. Van der Veken
Advisers: A. Acke and K. Hanthazi

Acoustics

Chairman: J. Coose
Vice-Chairman: M. Ruebens
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Adviser: G. De Raed

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Engineers-leaders: C. Euben and J.-F. Rondeaux
Coordination WG: P. Cauwe, S. Dandoy, E. Debast, M. Lamote and D. Langendries

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Engineers-leaders: P. Dewez and T. Lonfils
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Smart & Sustainable Constructions

Sustainable Constructions Committee

Chairman: M. Hoevenaeghel
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Adviser: A. Denis

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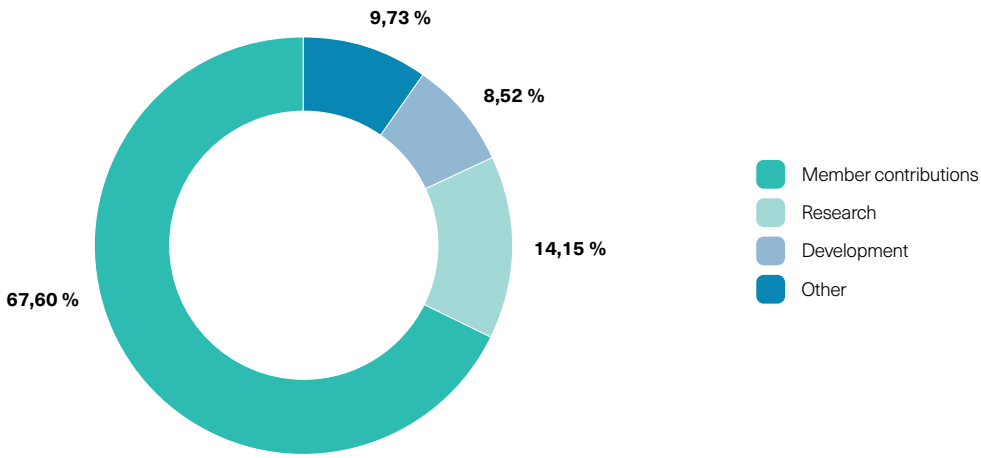
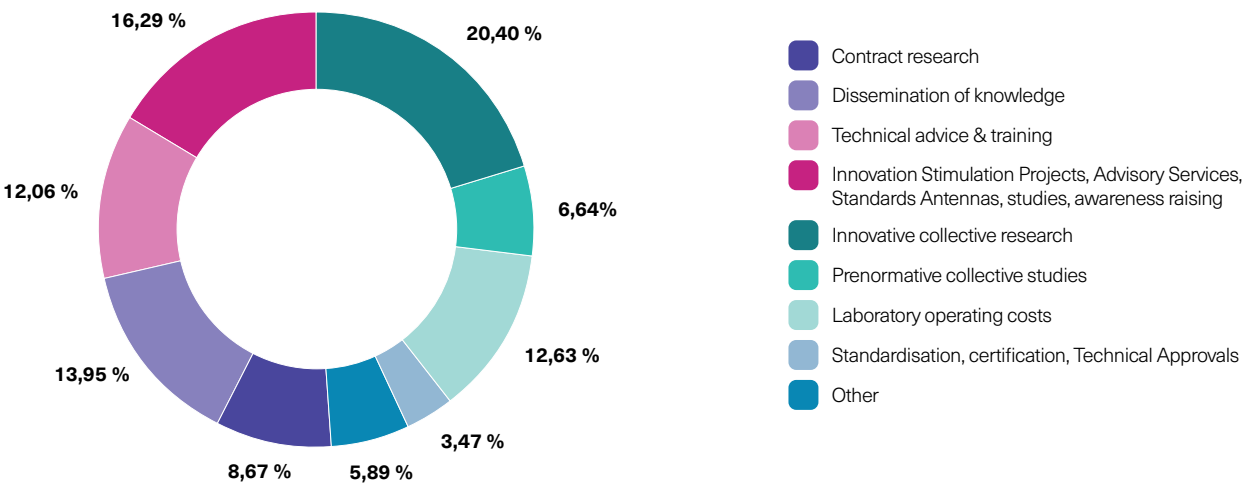
Engineers-leaders: P. D'Herdt and A. Deneyer
Adviser: K. Janssens

More figures

Sources of financing



Allocation of resources



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Buildwise

Buildwise

A pioneer in research and innovation

As a pioneer in research and innovation, Buildwise is committed to getting its expertise and latest breakthroughs adopted, all with a view to boosting quality standards, efficiency and sustainability in construction.

A catalyst for the sector's transformation

Our ambition is to become a catalyst for transformation, stimulating the exchange of knowledge and bringing industry stakeholders together to overcome current and future challenges. Buildwise is positioned as an inspirational guide, committed to driving significant and sustainable change in the construction sector.

Sharing knowledge and expertise

Buildwise embraces a transdisciplinary vision, analysing and solving challenges from a variety of angles. Our hands-on work is guided by an integrated, three pronged approach: technological innovation, a commitment to sustainability and excellence in our know-how. Together, we are building the solid foundations of a future where knowledge and expertise are developed, shared and adopted in the field.

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