

NCPP – Northern Clay Plaster Project – Professional Qualification for Working with Natural and Sustainable Building Materials

REPORT ON ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ESTONIA

General awareness

General awareness of the building and the public sector for the significance of sustainable and ecologic building materials.

Because of historical background, general awareness of environment and sustainability, specifically the significance of sustainable and ecological building materials are quite high in Estonia. In soviet times, there was constant need and shortage for conventional building materials (for example steel and concrete), one solution was to use local natural building materials instead. In late 1980-s, the Estonian Green Movement to protest against the opening of a large phosphorus mine in north-east Estonia became one of the Estonian independence movement, which subsequently led to the restoration of the independence of Estonia. In Estonia the ecological building material know-how is strong and traditional- it is a part of our cultural heritage.

In the changing economic and political situation, many new building materials and techniques entered to the building market resulting in the local natural materials to be remained in the background or even put behind.

Since the early 2000-s the environmental concern has become increasingly important in every aspect of life, the solution to minimize negative environmental impact of the building industry is to find an alternative to materials with high embodied energy and made of non- renewable resources.

Therefore, many local sustainable building materials have been rediscovered and old environmental building techniques are currently enjoying a revival.

Regardless of increasing popularity of ecological building technology in Estonia, very few houses are renovated or built in a sustainable way. One of the reason seems to be a lack of information about the methods and techniques of sustainable building and the impression that ecological materials cost more than other conventional building materials (in some cases this is true). But the main reason is highly undeveloped market in the given field. There are only a few (construction) companies in Estonia yet, whose main field of activity would be sustainable construction. In Estonia all the presumption to produce green building materials exists, but still the majority of the materials are imported from abroad. Estonian nature is rich for its renewable resources that could be used as natural building materials. There is much to learn by absorbing the local traditional building methods and materials.

Ecological building and building materials is still a niche product in Estonia for environmentally conscious people who are already interested in the theme and are willing to pay more for green products.

Press – effects mostly broad public

There have been some environmentally oriented television-programs which also reflect sustainable and ecological building from time to time. For example “Osoon” and “Maahommik” in Estonian public television channel ETV. There are also number of articles about ecological building and building materials published in main media. Very popular are environmentally orientated web portals- <http://www.bioneer.ee/> and <http://www.greengate.ee/> – which gathers environment and nature related news, articles and promotes events .

Qualification possibilities

Qualification possibilities for people working with ecological and sustainable building materials.

At the moment there are almost no qualification possibilities in Estonia for people working with ecological and sustainable building materials.

There are some informal possibilities, but the quality is not ensured and the courses are not consistent in their content.

For experts and specialists working with ecological and sustainable building materials, the only possibility to evolve their skills at the moment is to learn through experience.

There are some organisations, enterprises and natural material centres who organize seminars, courses and workshops and publish publications about ecological building materials:

- MTÜ HääOm. <http://heaom.ee>
- Vanaajamaja MTÜ. <http://vanaajamaja.ee>
- Information Centre for Sustainable Renovation in Tallinn, Tartu, Paide. <http://www.srik.ee>
- Tartu Environmental Education Centre in Tartu. <http://www.teec.ee>
- Saviukumaja OÜ. <http://www.saviukumaja.ee>
- Säästvad Ehituslahendused OÜ. <http://www.ehituslahendused.ee>
- National heritage board of Estonia. <http://www.muinas.ee/>
- Loodusehitus OÜ. <http://www.loodusehitus.ee>
- MTÜ Equilibre, <http://www.equilibre.ee>
- Looduskeskus OÜ, <http://www.juured.ee>
- Ehitusala OÜ, <http://www.ehitusala.ee>

These courses are mostly conducted by specialist and experts working with sustainable building materials and are focused for people who are already interested in ecological and sustainable building materials and are oriented to ecological building e.g. architects, self-builders, people from residents associations, owners of old wooden houses.

There are some more academical and theoretical courses in the universities, focusing more environmentally friendly and sustainable buildings:

- Environmentally friendly and sustainable building course for civil engineers curriculum in Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu. <http://www.emu.ee>
- Earth building course for Estonian Native Construction curriculum in University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy. <http://www.kultuur.edu.ee>
- Environmentally friendly and sustainable building course for curriculum in Tallinn University of Technology Tartu College, Tartu. <http://www.ttu.ee/institutes/tartu-college>
- Hiiumaa Ametikool. <http://www.hak.edu.ee/cms>
- Vocational Training Centre of Haapsalu. <http://www.hkhk.edu.ee/uus>

In Estonia there is also annual building fairs and festivals which promotes sustainable and ecological building with lectures, seminars, demonstrations and workshops. Some examples:

- Ecofest in Põlvamaa "Rohelisem elu", <http://www.ecofest.ee>
- Ecomess "Ökomäss" in Tallinn, <http://ecomess.eu>
- Annual environmental fair "Elukvaliteet" in Tartu, <http://www.tartunaitused.ee/elukvaliteet>

The situation is very positive for our project – curriculum for education about clay usage. The Northern Clay Plaster education material can be used for shorter and longer vocational courses, or as part of courses for ecological, sustainable building or renovation building. And the education and tests will be done according to the ECVET Earth Building, so the crafts will also be able to continue their studies in other EU-countries.

Recognition of qualification

At the moment, there is no organized education for clay plastering or ecological building in vocational education institutes.

There is no system of giving certifications after attending workshops and seminars organized by organisations, enterprises and natural material centres.

Only in the universities- which have theoretical lectures about environmentally friendly and sustainable building- the credits will be earned after passing the lecture.

Who are the stakeholders?

Producers, builders and vendors of ecological building materials:

Company	Field of Activity	Website URL or e-mail
Saviukumaja OÜ	produces and sells clay- and lime plasters, unfired light clayblocks and compressed earth blocks, builder of rammed earth and lightweight clay buildings, renovation works with old clay buildings	saviukumaja.ee
Loodusehitus OÜ	Builder of sustainable and ecological buildings (straw bale and clay buildings), clay plastering	loodusehitus.ee
Natuurehitus OÜ	Builder of sustainable and ecological buildings, clay plastering	natuurehitus.ee
Roffi OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	roffi.ee
A-Viimistluse OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	viimistluse.ee
Wuni OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	hsirelpuu@gmail.com
Savi ja Lubjameistrid OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	
Alternatura OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, restoration of old buildings	alternatura.ee
Säästvad Ehituslahendused OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	ehituslahendused.ee
Õkomaffia OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	katus.org
Õko-projekt Grupp OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	oko.ee
Savimees OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	savimees.eu
Tribiani Ehitus OÜ	Clay and lime plastering, tadelakt	tribiani.ee
Roomaja OÜ	Vendor and producer of reed products	roomaja.ee
Rolite OÜ	Vendor of natural insulation materials	rolite.eu
Järveroog OÜ	Producer of reed boards and reed roofing	jarveroog.ee
Rooexpert OÜ	Producer of reed boards and reed roofing	rooexpert.ee
Tervemaja OÜ	Natural insulation materials	tervemaja.ee
Uninaks AS	Producer of different mixes, including clay and lime plasters.	uninaks.ee
Matoil OÜ	Producer of different mixes, including clay plasters.	matoil.ee
Clay Processing Services OÜ	Producer of clay and lime plasters	savikrohv.ee
Elumaja OÜ	Ecological module houses	elumaja.ee
Vestra EX OÜ	Lin products	vestra.ee

Vendors of ecological building materials:

- Majatohter, <http://www.majatohter.ee/>, vendor of clay plasters and surface treatment
- Safran OÜ, <http://www.safran.ee/>, vendor and importer of clay plasters and surface treatments
- Nobe OÜ, <http://www.heamajapood.ee>, vendor of clay plasters

Medium and long term trends

What are medium and long term trends?

Medium term trends are for use of natural materials by self builders and few enlightened professionals, who realize the advantages of natural, sustainable building materials.

Long term trends will be, using clay by building industry in new passive houses to provide better climate, for health reasons and to use clay more often in renovations.

Legislation

Clay plaster is not mentioned in the Estonian building regulations or legislation.

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