Experiences from Denmark

Establishment of Green Building Council Denmark
Choice of DGNB for adaptation and use in Denmark
Use and adaptation of DGNB New Urban Districts

Klaus Hansen
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Green Building Council Denmark

Building initiative 2008
SBi, Rambøll & COWI (research & consultants)
National Association for Building (BS)
Individual stakeholders (essential & interested)
Other associations (property & construction)
Government agency (buildings)
DK-GBC established 2010
DGNB chosen

Urban district initiative 2010
BS & government agency (planning)
DK-GBC & district stakeholders
DGNB Urban Districts adapted 2014

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Choice of DGNB

Green Building Council Denmark (DK-GBC) wanted
• to use only one certification scheme
• to choose an international scheme - not to develop a Danish
• to choose a scheme, which could be adapted to Denmark

BREEAM, LEED, HQE and DGNB was tested on two office buildings involving foreign experts, and DK-GBC chose DGNB for adaptation and use in Denmark for buildings

The arguments for choosing DGNB includes:
• Equal focus on economic, environmental and social sustainability
• Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) - like CEN/TC 350 and CPR
• Inclusion of the overall economy (incl. LCC)
• Performance-based evaluation allowing for innovation

Later on the governmental Nature Agency (responsible for planning) accepted the choice of DGNB also for urban districts

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Government agencies

Agency for building regulations
• Supported and participated in the establishment of DK-GBC
  - better construction - higher quality
  - development and branding of the Danish construction sector
• Support the development of tools for LCA and LCC
• Governmental building strategy under preparation
  including promotion of sustainable construction

Agency for governmental buildings
• No demand for certification of governmental buildings so far
  BUT regional authorities demands DGNB certification of new hospitals

Agency for planning
• Initiated the test of DGNB on urban districts
  - identify needs for adaptation of DGNB
  - raise the level of ambition for sustainability
  - establish a common frame of reference
• Beside information are collected on best practices and other tools
devoloped by individual municipalities or by others
• New governmental architecture policy promotes environmental,
social and cultural sustainability mentioning DGNB

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Status for
Green Building Council Denmark

Adapted certification schemes for:
• new office buildings
• new urban districts
• new residential buildings
• new hospital buildings (under development)
• existing offices (wanted)

Certifications: 10 buildings
Precertifications: 9 buildings + 4 districts

Education: 216 DGNB consultants
19 DGNB auditors

Members of DK-GBC: 200+

International contact: DGNB, ÖGNI, SGNI, Nordic, EU & WGBC

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Danish experiences regarding DGNB New Urban Districts

Results

• DGNB commits cooperation between the parties involved
• Strong collaboration between all the involved parties and experts inclusive the municipalities from the very beginning
• Strong Danish practice concerning energy, climate adaptation, urban life, cycling and mixed-use development,
• But material consumption, communication and marketing are new issues
• Using DGNB is resource-intensive – especially in a pilot phase
• Four projects pre-certified: one got gold and three got silver

Adaptation

• Almost all topics are considered essential in a Danish context
• In particular, the references to German law and standards required adaptation to Danish references
• In some areas, the thinking is different in Denmark, e.g. concerning health, mobility and transport planning

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“Certification creates a common platform and a common goal, so that broad cooperation between all players can start early in the process. The ambitions become measurable, it commits in a good way. Besides local, regional and international comparisons can be made.”

Sonja Stockmarr / Henning Larsen Architects
Adaptation of DGNB

Klaus Hansen SBi/AAU

Working groups involving experts and practitioners from all parties in the sector

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GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL DENMARK

Klaus Hansen SBi/AAU

Mette Qvist – Januar 2014
Danish perspectives regarding DGNB New Urban Districts

• DGNB is a certification tool, not a process or dialogue tool
• Integrative planning and process guidelines needed
• DGNB is resource-intensive meant for ambitious projects
  - more experience & use of auditors is expected to reduce
• DGNB's list of criteria can separately be used as checklist
• Important that DGNB's criteria now will be public available
• An overview of the Planning Act regarding sustainability are expected

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