

OCTOBER 2020

# news

for members



Photo from project Act eco

## Regular news for members

This newsletter- for informing the members about ESBA- has been prepared by the board of directors, and will be issued quarterly or bi-monthly. Hopefully, future editions will be prepared by the Communication Working Group. Enjoy reading this first issue of the newsletter!



Straw bale house database Europe  
The database will be officially launched on our ESBA website during October 2020  
[www.strawbuilding.eu/](http://www.strawbuilding.eu/)



[strawbale-houses-europe/](http://strawbale-houses-europe/)

Straw bale building course online (free)  
6 week, free, online SB course is being run by UpStraw starting 5th Oct. Inscriptions accepted until 17th November. link to register: <https://>

1

### PROJECTS

ESBA is an associate partner of two projects: Up Straw and ACT eco.

2

### TRAINING

Step training online and training for trainers is being prepared.

3

### COMMUNICATION

Regular newsletter for members. Social media need your news.

4

### RESEARCH

Database of SB houses. Adding research entries to ESBA webpage.

## Project Up Straw

### ESBA/UP STRAW straw bale house database

UP STRAW (Benedikt and Wiebke) organised an initiative to collect data about straw bale houses from the UP STRAW member countries: FR, BE, DE, UK, NL.

As a first step, each of the countries updated its national database.

Herbert & Matthias, the programmers, designed a plugin for a similar database years ago, and were conceded the contract from UP STRAW to establish a new database on ESBA website.

They collected the data about houses as a first step, made an upload-admin-center and are able to import from Excel-forms (converted direct from MySQL-databases).

Status now is: the database has been published: [www.strawbuilding.eu/strawbale-houses-europe/](http://www.strawbuilding.eu/strawbale-houses-europe/)

As a second step, all members of ESBA will be invited to share their databases or establish a

new one directly on ESBA website. Info about the project: <http://www.strawbuilding.eu/up-straw-interreg-project/>

"a big dream came true: straw bale house registry/database on strawbuilding.eu"

## Project Act eco

### Learn eco building for all

Partners from 4 countries (A, SK, CZ and FR), three of which are ESBA organizations, are creating an educational platform with many online courses about sustainable building; some of the courses will be free, and others not. Straw bale building online courses and videos will be included. ASBN has previously run courses through the [www.acteco.eu](http://www.acteco.eu) platform.

ESBA has offered to help to disseminate the results of the project and also keep the platform working after the project finishes.

## Project JUMP!

### Training for change

This is a 3 year long Erasmus plus project meant to create a structure for T4T in sustainable building.

The project will finish this year, and the results will be learning outcomes and session plans for

4 modules: Sustainability, Training, Assessment and Cooperation.

Several partners of the project are members of ESBA. The results of this project will add another dimensions to STEP training and will facilitate it to train the trainers.



## 2

## ACTION GROUP TRAINING

### STEP

#### - Straw Bale Training for European Professionals

After a Meeting last year in Austria, many ESBA-members (Netherlands, Poland, Lithuania, Spain, UK) wanted to offer STEP courses partly or even the full training. This year we invited members of ESBA, Jump! and Acteco to an online-course about Zoom & Learndash online-courses and communication.

ASBN started to establish the STEP-courses online on acteco.eu. Herbert will update the presentations and STEP-resources for members until end of the year (a small candy for ESBA-members who stay members even next year). In October ASBN tries to launch a new online-STEP-training over the winter (until April 2021), practical Units will follow next building season 2021. All STEP-trainings will be published on ESBA's training-homepage [www.strawbale.training](http://www.strawbale.training)

#### STEP in Spanish next year

Spain has the intention to start implementing a full- 8 module- Spanish language STEP training in 2021. This course will be given partially online, supported by short practical

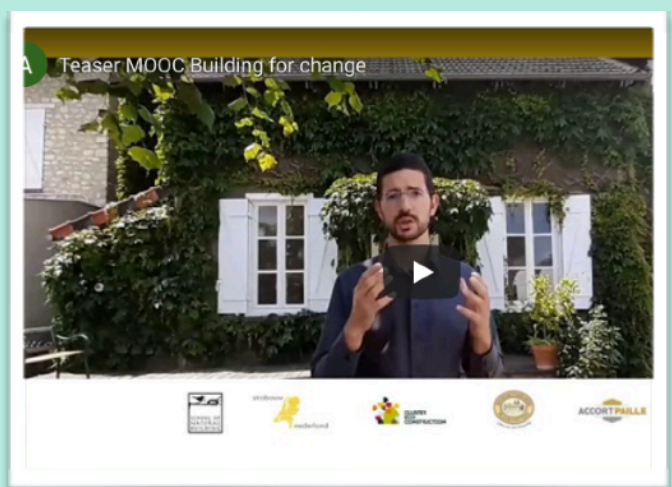
workshops. It will be imparted in/by 6 different training centres. We will keep you updated when dates are set!

#### Building for change - Naturally

A new MOOC dedicated to building with straw: a 6 week, free, online training started October 5th! It is given in French & English. "Building for change - Naturally" is a training programme developed as part of UP STRAW. It is the result of collaborative effort by the project partners.

Presentation Video: <https://youtu.be/eSs6Tx69HEA>

Registration: <https://www.mooc-batiment-durable.fr/courses/course-v1:ApprochePaille+2020MOOCBAT02+SESSION01/aboutfbclid=IwAR1XsNPmXbHXAAHwq8RofGJ9rNqZszDdNMK...>





# 3

## ACTION GROUP COMMUNICATION



### Talking about Straw Bale

Casper from SBN was quite active in starting and organizing the group after the ESBG in Todmorden. Casper, Herbert, Cypren and Maciej started a new Instagram account for ESBA, wanted to start a Mailchimp-newsletter (a monthly or bimonthly best of the news on Instagram), discussed about an international European-wide ESBG August 2021 and tried to establish other social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, ...) to publish

straw bale news. With Corona everything stopped in January this year and all were busy to manage the new unforeseen situations in their countries (changing to online-courses and trainings). The fact is: the facebook-page <https://www.facebook.com/strawbaleeurope> is still the most active and successful. Although we invited members of ESBA to publish their news in the open ESBA-Facebook-group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/996388453905411/>, there was not much response.

### Informing through newsletters

This newsletter is a temporary solution. Zuzana Kierulfova, with the help of the board, collected info for this newsletter, in order to inform members of activities and projects.

The original idea of communication group was to start a Mailchimp-newsletter (monthly or bimonthly, based on the “best of the news” from Instagram and Facebook).

## Social media of ESBA

### FB-Site:

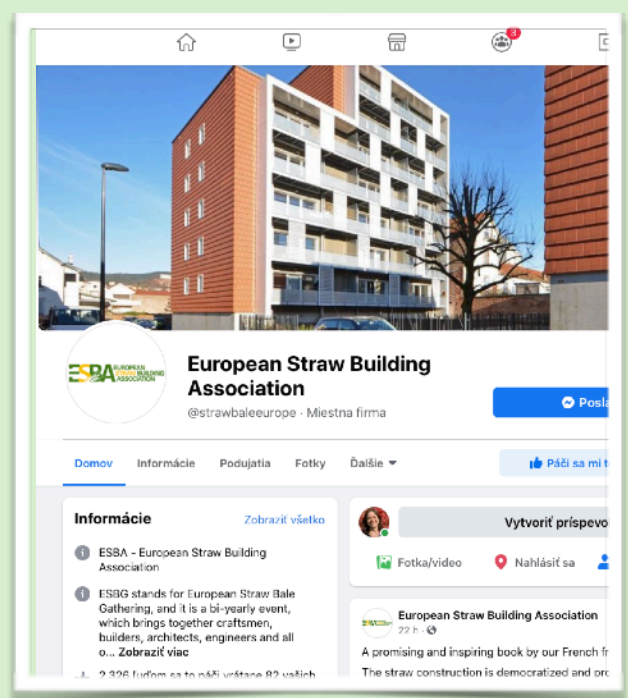
<https://www.facebook.com/strawbaleeurope>  
Herbert will make board-members to administrators, so that they can publish directly.

### ESBA-Facebook-group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/996388453905411/>

### Instagram:

[https://www.instagram.com/strawbuilding\\_eu/](https://www.instagram.com/strawbuilding_eu/)  
Please, publish on FB, and the communication Group will then make Public Newsletter from “best” entries.



### We need help!

The Communication working group needs new, enthusiastic members! To join us, contact: [communication@strawbuilding.eu](mailto:communication@strawbuilding.eu)

## Research Database

### on ESBA website

Due to a cooperation with UP STRAW ESBA will add about 430 research-entries in the database <http://www.strawbuilding.eu/category/parent/research/> . The new resources are mostly links to resources on the internet about new straw bale related research in Europe and other countries. A short description in English

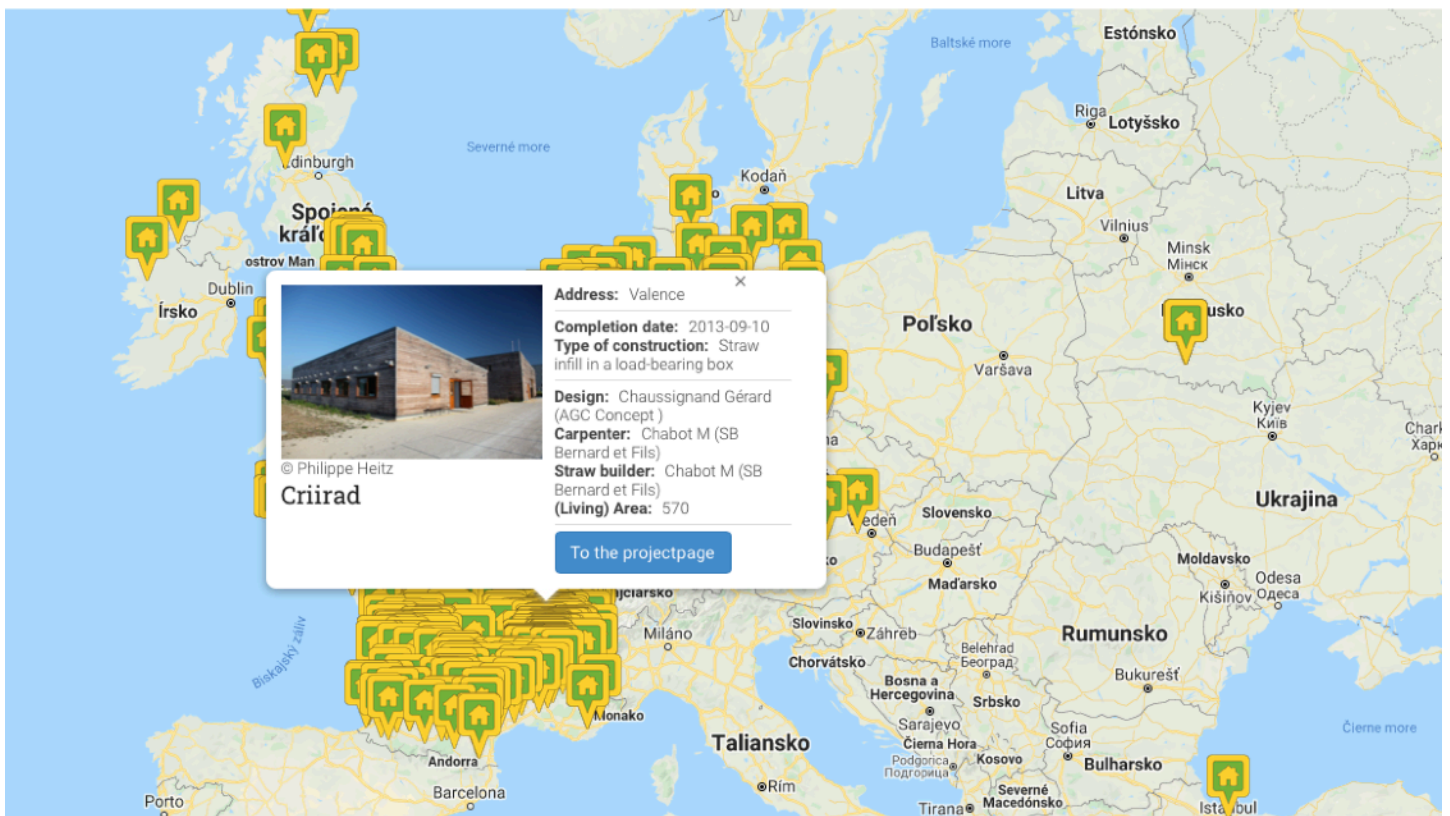
will give you an overview of the content, we try to make this database as searchable as possible. As members from UP STRAW described it, it will be the biggest database on the net about straw bale research, books and tests.

Due to the vast amount of information we would need help to categorize and tag the data. If you want to help, please contact: [research@strawbuilding.eu](mailto:research@strawbuilding.eu)

## Straw Bale House Registry.

The database will be officially launched on our ESBA website during October 2020. [www.strawbuilding.eu/strawbale-houses-europe/](http://www.strawbuilding.eu/strawbale-houses-europe/)

There will be Zoom Meeting in November about how members can add buildings to the database. We will send you the details as soon as we have it!



## General Assembly

### November 2020

The assembly is being planned for November 2020. Here is the link to a doodle, in order for us to find the best date for everyone between the 23rd to the 28th of November:

<https://doodle.com/poll/xepfdci7b2pz9wh6>

Please write to the board latest one week before general assembly, if you want to run for the ESBA board.

## ESBG 2021

### Present form and online

Although not officially decided by the ESBA board or ESBA members, the tendencies after our experiences with corona and online-trainings, Zoom-meetings, the ongoing changes of paradigm and new technical solutions which came up with the need to communicate even in times, where personal meetings are not possible, seem to go in direction of a mixed virtual and real ESBG-meeting in The Netherlands next year. The idea behind is, that all member-countries make a national SB-meeting at the same time on

## ESBA decisions

### Signatures for bank issues

There was a need to authorize signatures for the bank issues. It is a board decision that Michael Fisher as treasurer and/or Herbert Gruber as Co-president have the right to sign for the purpose of authorising bank paperwork

Points which will be included in GA Agenda:

- A. Budget
- B. Proposal for debate: inclusion of EBE (earth building) in ESBA. The idea is to start the debate, with a decision to be made during next ESBG (or a future General Assembly).
- C. Planning ESBG 2021: NL or EU? In person or online?
- D. Working groups- reactivate them!
- E. Change in Statutes: legal address needs to be modified
- F. Elections- Herbert, Michael, Maciej and Rikki up for re-election and new members can be included.

three days in August 2021. Small countries or organisations, which are not able to organize such a meeting alone, join with neighbour-countries. The best presentations will be screened via YouTube in an official Online-program mostly in the evenings. Practical workshops are organized during the days locally, mixed with presentations, which are more of national/local/regional interest. Climate Change definitely needs such a common effort to show straw bale (and earth building) solutions in a wider European context. 3 days of Straw Bale and Earth Building would also be of bigger interest for television (ARTE, News-channels) and bigger/national newspapers.

(Sparkasse Ravelsbach, in Austria). One signature will be sufficient. This decision is in accordance with the organisation`s statutes.

A decision has been taken to publish this change, which was decided in the Todmorden GA in 2019, as soon as possible instead of waiting for this years GA, in order to avoid problems with the bank.