

The ENGAGE for ESG initiative: EU Taxonomy Compliance for Mortgages

Tuesday, 23 April 2024







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Today's speakers



Marco Angheben
Head of Business Development &
Regulatory Affairs
European DataWarehouse
marco.angheben@eurodw.eu



Vincent Mahieu
Head of Energy Efficiency & Regulatory
Technology
Hypoport
vincent.mahieu@hypoport.com



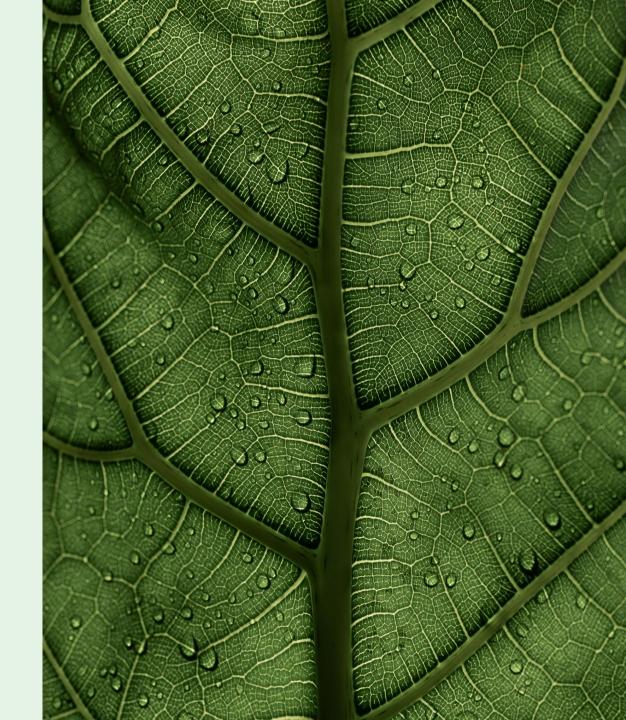
Agenda

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Introduction of the ENGAGE for ESG initiative

Marco Angheben, European DataWarehouse & Project Coordinator





The EU climate challenge

75%

- Almost 75% of the EU building stock is energy inefficient according to current building standards.
- It is therefore urgent for the EU to focus on how to **make our buildings more energy-efficient**, less carbonintensive over their full life-cycle and more sustainable.
- The level of renovations of existing buildings remains persistently low and shallow.



- The European Commission estimates that in order to achieve the proposed 55% emission reduction climate target by 2030, around EUR 275 billion of additional investments are needed per year.
- It is necessary to act on different fronts to foster a better use of EU and national public funds and mobilise a greater share of private funds.



The ENGAGE for ESG Initiative

- The ENGAGE for ESG initiative aims to contribute to the goals of the EU Green Deal, by promoting ESG transparency for residential mortgages and home renovation loans.
- The ENGAGE Templates 1.0, released in November 2023, include data elements that allow financial institutions to disclose the alignment of their mortgages with the EU Taxonomy requirements in line with the Substantial Contribution Criteria of the Climate Delegated Act.
- The Templates will also enable the assessment of the degree of sustainability for mortgages and the classification of investments for certain mortgages as "sustainable" according to the EU Taxonomy.
- The Templates will be updated and expanded to incorporate the most relevant European sustainability regulations. They will be operationalised through the ENGAGE Portal, a dedicated IT infrastructure currently under development.
- ENGAGE Templates will be integrated in 2024 into the ENGAGE Portal currently under construction.
- All interested institutions are invited to test the Templates and the Portal upon request to engage4esg@eurodw.eu.
- A specific legal framework has been prepared for the safe and lawful processing of the data.







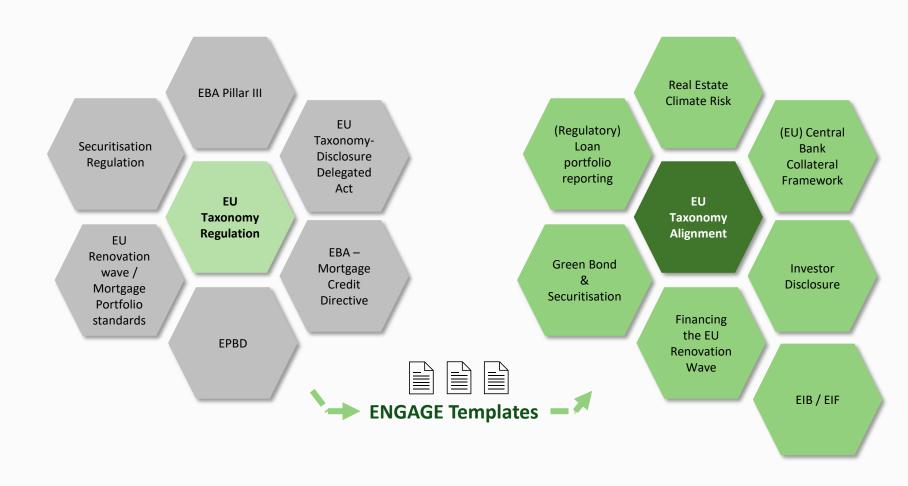






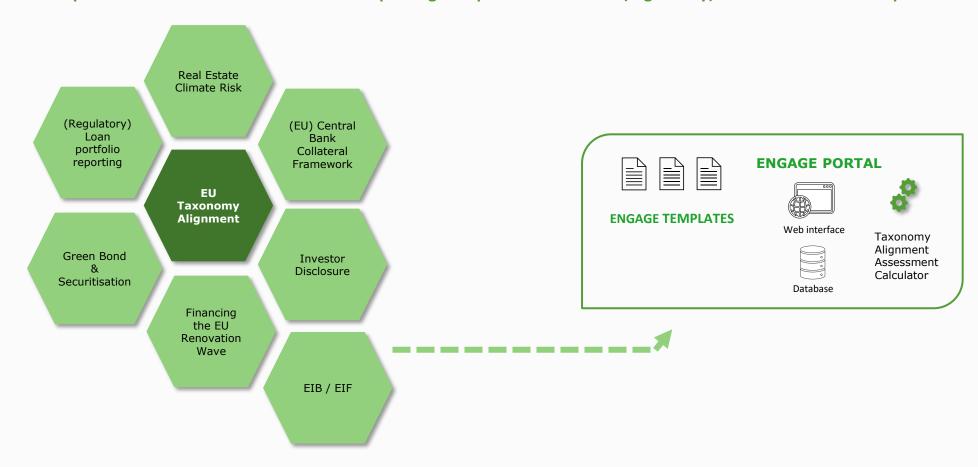


ENGAGE: (Regulatory) Background



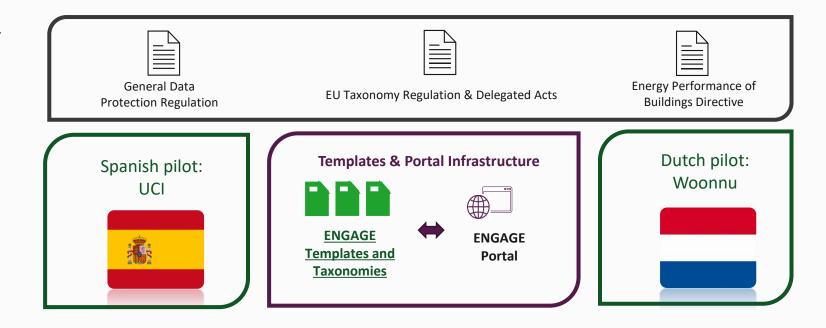


A future proof format for real estate data encompassing Europe's most relevant (regulatory) sustainable finance requirements.





- A future proof format for real estate data encompassing Europe's most relevant regulatory and sustainable finance requirements
- Converting regulatory sustainable finance regulation into requirements incorporating both the consumer and the financial institution perspective







Here is what we learned to be relevant for financial institutions from the outreach to (potential) pilots.

"what data is needed to gain insights into the renovation potential?"

"How do we convert the regulation into retail loan offerings?"

"How should we interpret section [7.x] of the EU Taxonomy?" "what data do I need to fulfil the requirements for the EU GBS?"

> "How does this portfolio compare to other portfolio's?"

"How do I manage a future-proof funding framework?" "Which portfolio has the best renovation performance?"





Consumers



Building block 1 created

Building blocks 2 & 3 under construction

Building block 0 • Current ESMA underlying exposures for residential mortgages (Annex 2) and consumer loans (Annex 6)

Compliance with the EU Taxonomy Regulation for:

a) Mortgages for the acquisition of new buildings (already built or under construction) and existing buildings;

b) Loans for the renovation of existing buildings.

Building block 2

Building

block 1

• European Investment Bank information requirements to capture funds from green financing programmes (e.g., ELENA) for the financing of the renovation wave.

Building block 3

• European Central Bank stress test fields related to climate change (such as flooding and heating) for financing activities related to the building stock.



The ENGAGE Templates

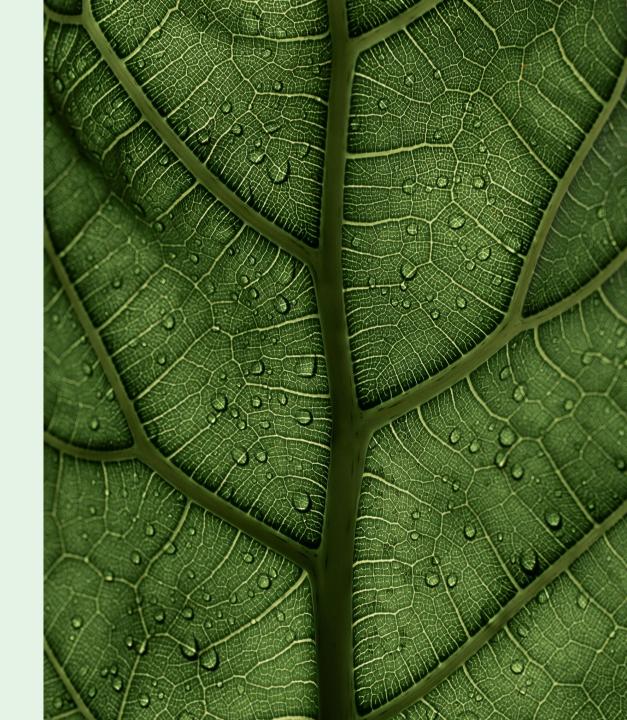


Request form for the ENGAGE Templates: https://forms.office.com/e/td14aYsMQS



Scope of the ENGAGE Templates version 1.0

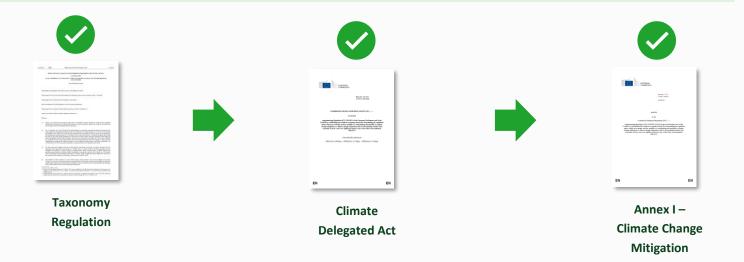
Vincent Mahieu, Hypoport BV

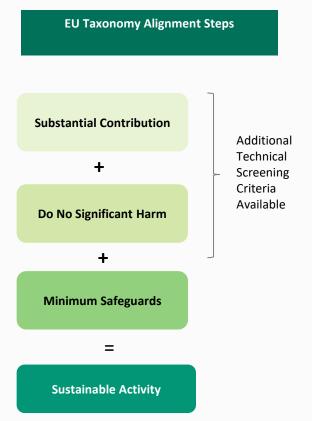




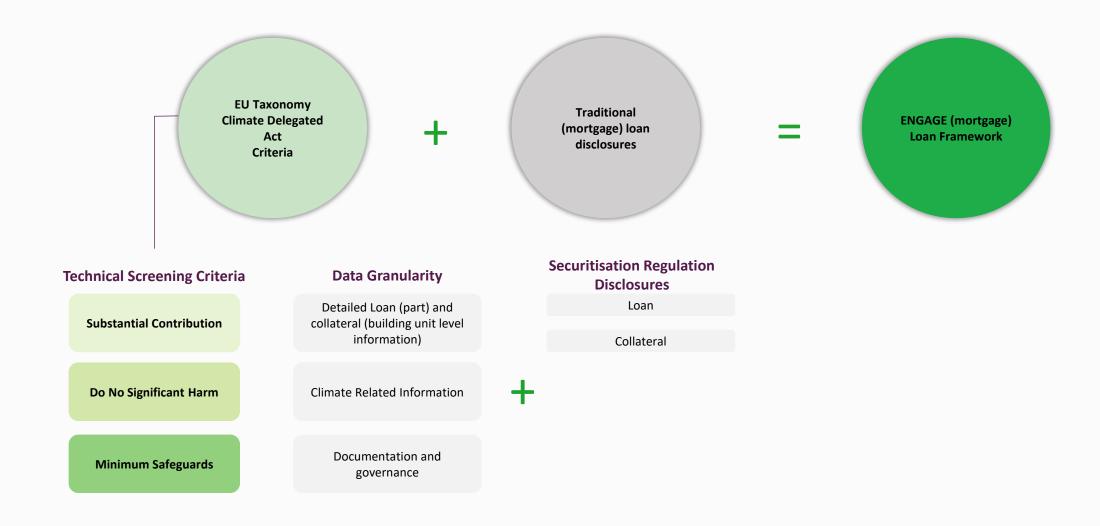
In short:

- The **EU Taxonomy Regulation** is a new regulation that constitutes the cornerstone of the EU Sustainable Finance Action Plan.
- The EU Taxonomy provides a **common language** and uniform criteria to identify the extent to which economic activities may be considered environmentally sustainable.
- It aim is to reorientate **capital flows towards lower-emission economic activities** that will help decarbonize the economy.
- The EU hopes to reach its 2030 climate targets and the ultimate goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- The EU Taxonomy defines the minimum criteria that economic activities should comply with in order to be considered environmentally sustainable.

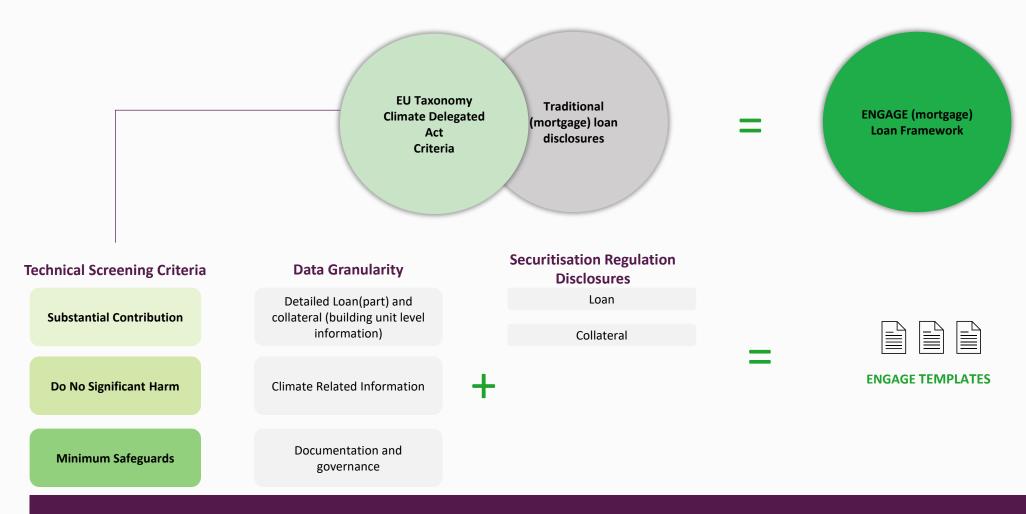














Do No Significant Harm

Minimum Safeguards

Dovetailing – Common Denominators

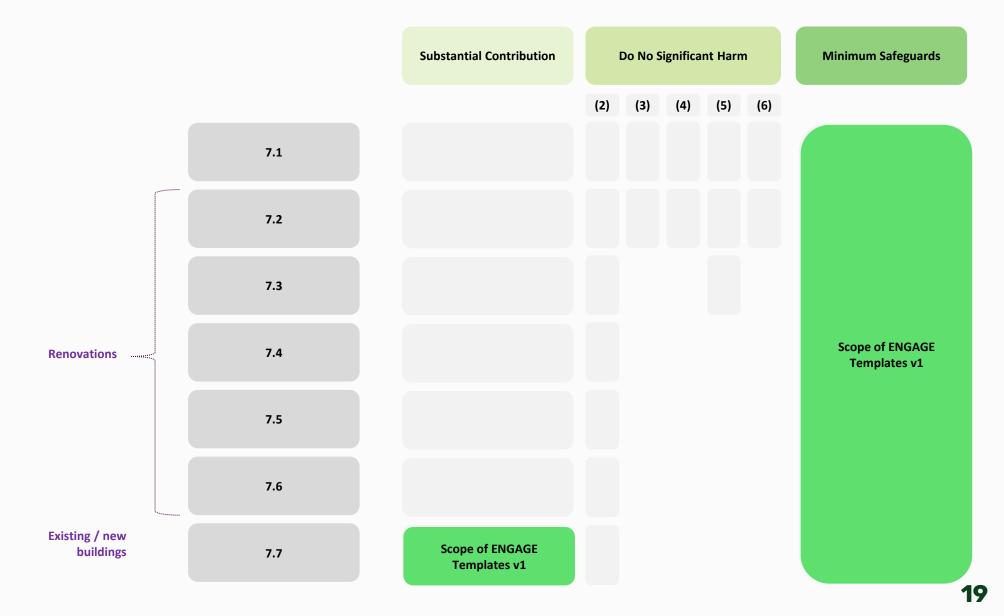
- ✓ By identifying common denominators among regulatory disclosure templates, financial institutions can simplify and streamline their (often costly) reporting processes.
- ✓ This will reduce the time and resources required to comply with multiple regulations, allowing financing institutions to focus on their core business: lending money.





When developing version 1.0 of the ENGAGE Templates, the ENGAGE consortium has considered:

- ✓ ENGAGE Templates are an add-on to existing market best practices
- ✓ ENGAGE Templates are scalable; if in the first phase the focus is on the EU Taxonomy, other elements can be incorporated later.
- ✓ Continuous Improvement and Innovation.





The ENGAGE Templates

Substantial Contribution
Criteria for the Economic
Activity 7.7 Acquisition
and ownership of
Buildings

Substantial Contribution

7.7

Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I
		1. For buildings built before 31 December 2020, the building has at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) class A.
7.7 Acquisition and ownership of buildings	L68	As an alternative, the building is within the top 15% of the national or regional building stock expressed as operational Primary Energy Demand (PED) and demonstrated by adequate evidence, which at least compares the performance of the relevant asset to the performance of the national or regional stock built before 31 December 2020 and at least distinguishes between residential and non-residential buildings.
		2. For buildings built after 31 December 2020, the building meets the criteria specified in Section 7.1 of this Annex that are relevant at the time of the acquisition.

In this version of the template, we have focussed on the **Substantial Contribution Criteria** that are relevant for energy efficient buildings – both existing and new buildings. As we follow a phased approach, we deemed it most appropriate to begin here, with economic activity 7.7 as:

- (existing) real estate tends to be the largest part of the balance sheet of European lending institutions.
- The whole (current) balance of the loan can be attributed towards Taxonomy Alignment or the Green Asset Ratio (GAR) if the TSC are met.
- These criteria are relatively straightforward to apply contrary to more challenging criteria such as the TSC for renovation loans and DNSH criteria.
- In addition, it is important that the criteria for new properties can be directly applied to identify and fund energy efficient new constructions.

7.7.1 – EPC of

Footnote

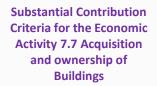
Not Applicable

7.7.2 – 10% Criterium of SCC 7.1 7.7.1.A -

Top-15%

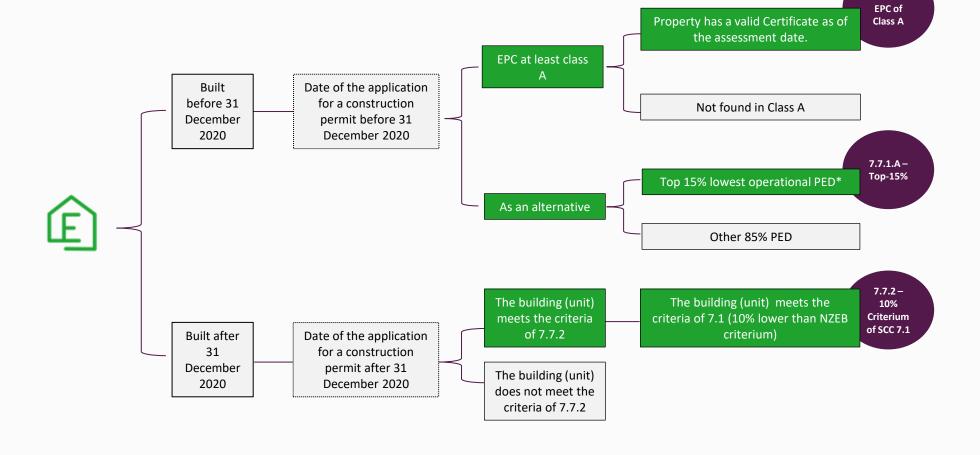


The ENGAGE Templates



Substantial Contribution

7.7



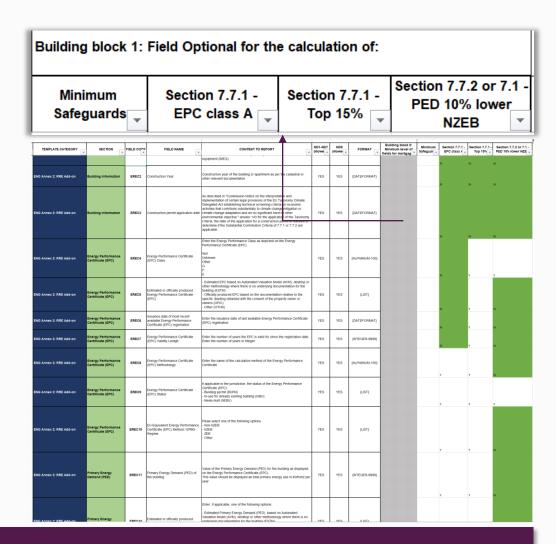
7.7.1 -



The ENGAGE Templates: Summary

Excerpt of first version of the ENGAGE Templates

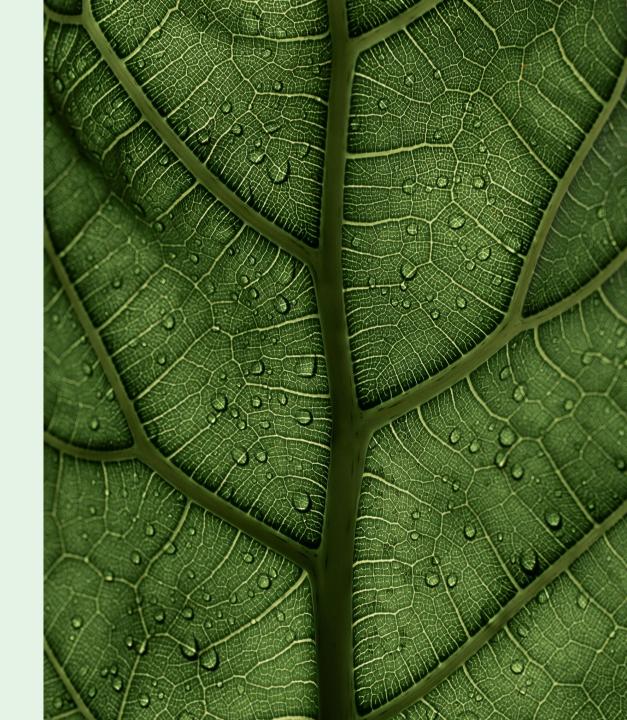
- Add-on to the ESMA disclosure templates
- First version of the template is based on Substantial Contribution
 Alignment for the activity "Acquisition & Ownership of Real Estate".
- The fields to indicate alignment with the criteria.
- ENGAGE fields are conditional on the section of Annex I of the Climate
 Delegated Act for which the alignment is checked.
- By applying the filters, you can check the data fields that are applied to assess the criteria.
- We apply a phased approach. Data fields for e.g. renovations and Do
 Not Significant Harm criteria will be created in the next versions.





The ENGAGE Templates: converting EU Taxonomy into data requirements

Vincent Mahieu, Hypoport BV





ENGAGE Templates: SCC 7.7.1

Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.7 Acquisition and ownership of buildings	L68	1. For buildings built before 31 December 2020, the building has at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) class A.	Not Applicable

Interpretation:

- At the reporting or assessment date the EPC of the building unit should be of Class A.
- The application date of the construction permit is needed to assess if the building is built before 31 December 2020.
- An EPC of Class A is needed (A, A+, A++, A+++, A++++ also satisfies this condition).
- A certificate should be present with a valid validity date, as of the assessment date, irrespective of the methodology.



Field Code	Field Name
RREL1	Unique Identifier
RREL3	New Underlying Exposure Identifier
RREL5	New Obligor Identifier
RREL6	Data Cut-Off Date
RREL30	Current Principal Balance
EREC1	General Activity Designation
EREC2	Construction Year
EREC3	Construction permit application date
EREC4	Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Class
EREC5	Estimated or officially produced Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)
EREC6	Issuance date of most recent available Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) registration
EREC7	Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Validity Length

Key considerations:

- The application date of the construction permit is needed to assess if the building is built before 31 December 2020. For some it is clear that the building was built before 31 December 2020.
- Answer 104 of the Q&A: EPC methodologies differ per country or sometimes within a country. Some jurisdictions use energy demand instead of energy consumption. As long as it is an official EPC, this does not matter.



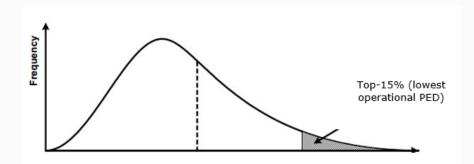
ENGAGE Templates: SCC 7.7.1 Alternative (top-15%) 1/2

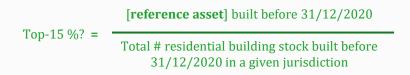
Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.7 Acquisition and ownership of buildings	L68	As an alternative, the building is within the top 15% of the national or regional building stock expressed as operational Primary Energy Demand (PED) and demonstrated by adequate evidence, which at least compares the performance of the relevant asset to the performance of the national or regional stock built before 31 December 2020 and at least distinguishes between residential and non-residential buildings.	Not Applicable

Interpretation:

- There are a range of varying estimation techniques available to perform a top-15% study.
- For instance, there are studies assessing the building code through time whereas other studies or assess (model) the operational PED per building unit to gauge if it is in the top-15%.
- We have facilitated flexibility of the method in the ENGAGE Templates in line with the European Commission in the Q&A that the methodology should be public and transparent.
- We incorporated the numerator and denominator that is used in the top-15% assessment in the ENGAGE Templates and some background information so that stakeholders can understand the methodology and study that is applied.
- The application date of the construction permit is needed to assess if the building is built before 31 December 2020









ENGAGE Templates: SCC 7.7.1 Alternative (top-15%) 2/2

Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.7 Acquisition and ownership of buildings	L68	As an alternative, the building is within the top 15% of the national or regional building stock expressed as operational Primary Energy Demand (PED) and demonstrated by adequate evidence, which at least compares the performance of the relevant asset to the performance of the national or regional stock built before 31 December 2020 and at least distinguishes between residential and non-residential buildings.	Not Applicable

Key considerations:

- The application date of the construction permit is needed to assess if the building is built before 31 December 2020.
- There are a range of varying estimation techniques available to perform a top-15% study.
- We have facilitated flexibility of the method in the ENGAGE Templates and we have emphasised the message of the European Commission in the Q&A that the methodology should be public and transparent.
- Therefore, we have incorporated the numerator and denominator that is used in the top-15% assessment and some background information in the ENGAGE Templates, so that stakeholders can understand the methodology and study that is applied.



Field Code	Field Name
RREL1	Unique Identifier
RREL3	New Underlying Exposure Identifier
RREL5	New Obligor Identifier
RREL6	Data Cut-Off Date
RREL30	Current Principal Balance
EREC1	General Activity Designation
EREC2	Construction Year
EREC3	Construction permit application date
EREC18	Building unit in top-15% indicator
EREC19	Top15_Explanatory Variable
EREC20	Top15_Object Reference Value
EREC21	Top15_Object Threshold Value
EGFF1	Top15_Document Name
EGFF2	Top15_Document Issuance Date
EGFF3	Top15_Document URL
EGFF4	Top15 Document Geographic Scope
EGFF5	Top15 Numerator
EGFF6	Top15 Denominator
EGFF7	Top15 Methodology Description



ENGAGE Templates: SCC 7.7.2 (1/3)

Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.7 Acquisition and ownership of buildings	L68	2. For buildings built after 31 December 2020, the building meets the criteria specified in Section 7.1 of this Annex that are relevant at the time of the acquisition.	Not Applicable



Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.1 Construction of New Buildings	F41.1, F41.2, F43	Constructions of new buildings for which: The Primary Energy Demand (PED) ²⁸² , defining the energy performance of the building resulting from the construction, is at least 10 % lower than the threshold set for the nearly zero-energy building (NZEB) requirements in national measures implementing Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁸³ . The energy performance is certified using an as built Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).	282: The calculated amount of energy needed to meet the energy demand associated with the typical uses of a building expressed by a numeric indicator of total primary energy use in kWh/m² per year and based on the relevant national calculation methodology and as displayed on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). 283: Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (OJ L 153, 18.6.2010, p. 13).

Interpretation:

- The EU Taxonomy requires building (units) with a construction permit application date after 31 December 2020 to be built according to the NZEB criteria and the Primary Energy Demand (PED) should be 10% less than the locally applicable threshold value.
- As of 31 December 2020, NZEB should be implemented in the EU according to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD III). As part of this directive the prime energy demand should be recorded and displayed on the Energy Performance Certificate.



ENGAGE Templates: SCC 7.7.2 (2/3)

Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.1 Construction of New Buildings	F41.1, F41.2, F43	Constructions of new buildings for which: The Primary Energy Demand (PED) ²⁸² , defining the energy performance of the building resulting from the construction, is at least 10 % lower than the threshold set for the nearly zero-energy building (NZEB) requirements in national measures implementing Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁸³ . The energy performance is certified using an as built Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).	282: The calculated amount of energy needed to meet the energy demand associated with the typical uses of a building expressed by a numeric indicator of total primary energy use in kWh/m² per year and based on the relevant national calculation methodology and as displayed on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). 283: Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (OJ L 153, 18.6.2010, p. 13).

Interpretation:

- To determine if the Substantial Contribution Criteria have been met (i.e. the requirement of the Primary Energy Demand (PED) to be 10% less than the locally applicable threshold value), the estimated or measured PED must be compared to the threshold value as established in the national or regional building code.
- In addition, in most countries the NZEB incorporation has set threshold for the energy performance of new building (units). The NZEB threshold can differ per region in some jurisdictions and/or per building type.
- Additionally in some regions, such as for instance in the Netherlands, EPCs based on NZEB can have different statuses indicating whether it is an energy performance assessment based on the building permit (application) or an existing building.
- The 10 % lower threshold can be checked by calculating if the 0.9 x PED ≤ Prime Energy Demand per building (unit).



ENGAGE Templates: SCC 7.7.2 (3/3)

Section	NACE	Substantial contribution to Climate Change Mitigation of Annex I	Footnote
7.1 Construction of New Buildings	F41.1, F41.2, F43	Constructions of new buildings for which: The Primary Energy Demand (PED) ²⁸² , defining the energy performance of the building resulting from the construction, is at least 10 % lower than the threshold set for the nearly zero-energy building (NZEB) requirements in national measures implementing Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁸³ . The energy performance is certified using an as built Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).	282: The calculated amount of energy needed to meet the energy demand associated with the typical uses of a building expressed by a numeric indicator of total primary energy use in kWh/m² per year and based on the relevant national calculation methodology and as displayed on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). 283: Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (OJ L 153, 18.6.2010, p. 13).

Key considerations:

- The application date of the construction permit is needed to assess if the building is built after 31 December 2020, see answer 106 of the Q&A.
- Assess if NZEB is incorporated in the jurisdiction. Also see answer 105 of the Q&A.
- Answer 109 of the Q&A states: "For the energy threshold, this depends on national regulations, i.e. if the EPC applies to the whole building, or to each apartment. Whichever is the requirement at national level, it should apply for both residential and non-residential buildings. The correct EPC will be provided in any case, in line with the national regulations. For identical apartments, having normally identical EPCs, a limited sub-set can be used. However, if there are different types of apartments, with different EPCs, all types need to be checked."
- Answer 114 of the Q&A states that the TSC applicable at the time of the building permit should be used (i.e. the date of the complete application for receiving the building permit).
- Answer 115 of the Q&A states that for new buildings, either an EPC (valid for 10 years) or an EPC as-built are valid.

Field Code	Field Name
RREL1	Unique Identifier
RREL3	New Underlying Exposure Identifier
RREL5	New Obligor Identifier
RREL6	Data Cut-Off Date
RREL30	Current Principal Balance
EREC1	General Activity Designation
EREC2	Construction Year
EREC3	Construction permit application date
EREC6	Issuance date of most recent available Energy
	Performance Certificate (EPC) registration
EREC7	Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Validity Length
EREC8	Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Methodology
EREC10	EU-Equivalent Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)
EVECTO	Method / EPBD-Regime
EREC11	Primary Energy Demand (PED) of the building
EREC12	Estimated or officially produced Primary Energy
ENECIZ	Demand (PED)
EREC15	Nearly zero-energy building (NZEB) threshold



ENGAGE Templates: Minimum Safeguards

	Article	Text
	18	Minimum safeguards
		1.The minimum safeguards referred to in point (c) of Article 3 shall be procedures implemented by an undertaking that is carrying out an economic activity to ensure the alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights.
		2. When implementing the procedures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, undertakings shall adhere to the principle of 'do no significant harm' referred to in point (17) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

Interpretation:

- When addressing the question of who undertakes this economic activity,
 we arrive at the conclusion that in our specific context, it is the
 (prospective) homeowner. The term "undertaking" is not defined in the
 context of the Taxonomy Regulation. The term "undertaking" is commonly
 understood to refer to a corporation, business entity, or an organized
 enterprise, rather than an individual.
- The (prospective) building owner is exercising ownership and thus carrying out the economic activity. A financial institution is facilitating this via a mortgage loan – financing the economic activity - of buying real estate.

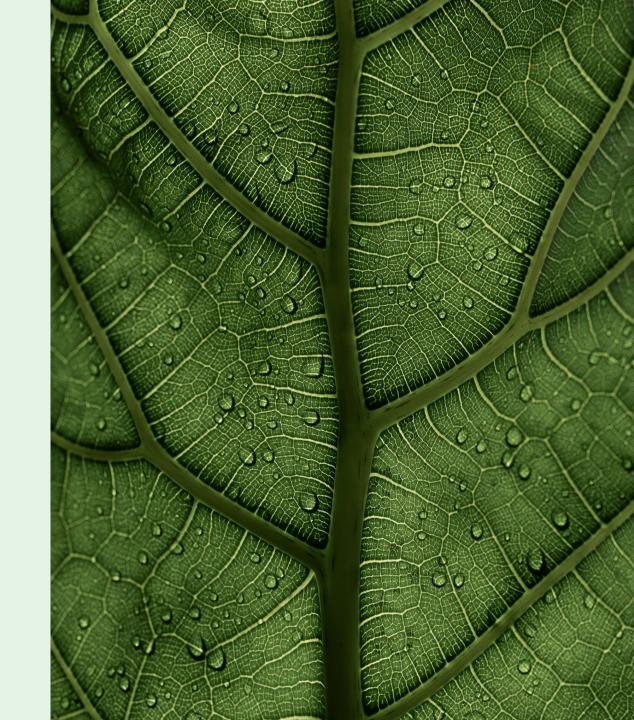
Field Code	Field Name
EGFF8	Description on how Minimum Safegaurds are complied with
EGFF9	URL towards MSS Issuer Statement
EGFF10	Environmental Objective
EGFF11	Link alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
EGFF12	Link towards UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
EGFF13	Link towards eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights.

We deem, with the current guidance, the Minimum Safeguards of the Taxonomy Regulation in the context of (mortgage) lending for residential properties to homeowners - more concretely for the economic activities of 7.2 – 7.7 of the Climate Delegated Act – Annex I, not to be applicable to households as we do not consider these to be undertakings.



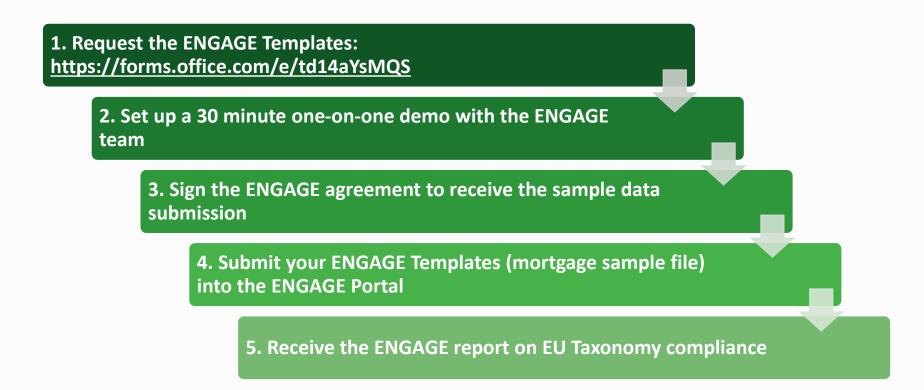
Closing remarks

Marco Angheben, European DataWarehouse & Project Coordinator





How to get ENGAGED as a Pilot



Interested institutions are invited to participate in the ENGAGE initiative during the testing phase of the Templates and the Portal. Please contact us if you like to learn more via engage4esg@eurodw.eu. A specific legal framework has been prepared for the safe and lawful processing of the data.



ENGAGE Webinar Series

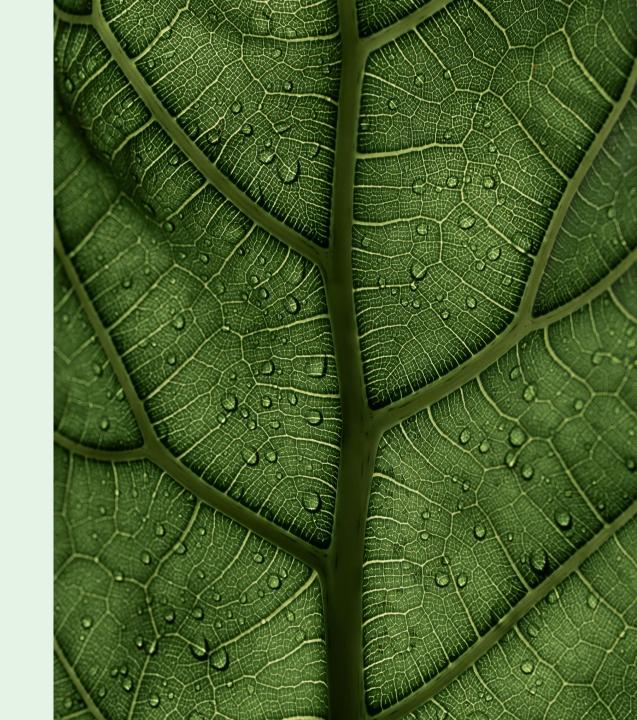


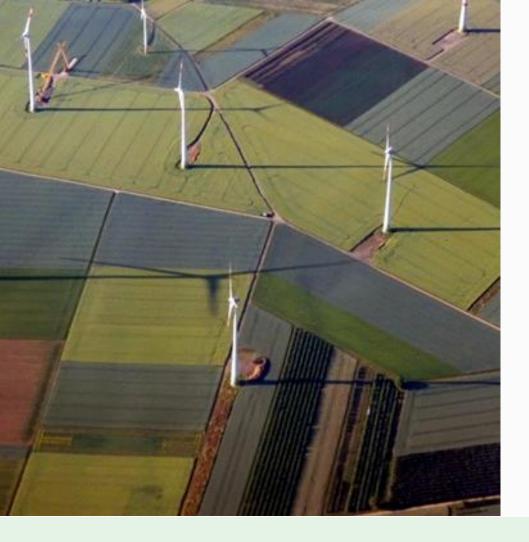
- Wednesday, 24 April16:00 CEST
- Wednesday, 29 May 10:00 CEST
- Tuesday, 25 June 10:00 CEST

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Questions & Answers







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Social Media:

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Project Coordinator:

Marco Angheben marco.angheben@eurodw.eu

ENGAGE General Contact:

engage4esg@eurodw.eu

Communications

Carla Scarsella carla.scarsella@eurodw.eu