



AGREE FINAL CONFERENCE – DENAK DU AMAIERA - TODO TIENE UN FINAL - EVERYTHING COMES TO AN END

D5.6: Final Conference Report

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Executive Summary

The kick-off of the AGREE project took place on 05 September 2019. 1911 days later, on 21 November 2023, the final conference of the project took place. This report gathers the relevant information about its organisation and implementation. The AGREE FC was realised as an international conference by means of its online broadcasting via a Zoom session. In order to guarantee the understanding of the information transmitted, the language variable of the possible participants was covered by the presence of two English translators. In this way, the entire day was conducted in two of the four most widely spoken languages in the world.

In the introduction, we describe the main milestones we wanted to cover with the FC, as well as the process of setting the date and the problems we had to face after changing the date of the Congress of the National Association of SUR.

This report describes the efforts made by the AGREE partners to ensure that the event was widely publicised, as well as the main points made by the participants at the event. It continues with a chapter on the overall data of the conference as a reflection of the activities carried out.

Finally, a brief example of the presentations made at the FC is given in the Conclusions chapter.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AAFF	Property Administration
AF	Property Administrator
AAPP	Public Administrations
CAPV	Autonomous Community of the Basque Country
CP	Community of Property Owners
EE	Energy Efficiency
EEFF	Financial Entities
ESE	Energy services companies
FC	Final Conference

1 Introduction

The FC of the AGREE project started to be defined months before its implementation, in various meetings with the partners, in particular with the partner in charge of the work package in charge of the dissemination of the project. Thus, at the beginning of 2023, the

design of all the public activities of the project was carried out, defining the conferences to be held in the context of the AGREE ACADEMY and the FC of the project.

Given the size of the AGREE project and the number of people who had participated in the project's public activities so far, it was concluded that including the FC in the programme of a larger activity would certainly have a greater impact on the day. For this reason, and given that the national assembly of the AVS (Spanish Association of Public Housing and Land Managers) was to be held in the Basque Country at the end of September or mid-October at the latest, it was decided that this would be the ideal place to hold the AGREE FC.

So we started to design an agenda for the conference that would fit into a wider programme and at the same time allow enough time for all the project partners to be present and to draw the main conclusions of the project. Consequently, a maximum duration of 2.5 hours was set, with half an hour for the partners responsible for WP1, 2 and 3 and a quarter of an hour for the partners responsible for WP4 and WP5. In order to maintain a similar distribution of time, the participation of the OPEN GELA project was also included in the agenda of the day with an extension of 15 minutes.

2 Conference preparation

The FC of the AGREE project started to be defined at the beginning of 2023, in various meetings with the partners, in particular with the partner in charge of the work package in charge of the dissemination of the project, IHOBE. Thus, months in advance, all the public activities of the project were designed, defining the days that would take place in the context of the AGREE ACADEMY and the FC of the project, and the times in which each of these activities would be carried out. Following the logic of the project and its timetable, the AGREE ACADEMY workshops had to be held around the months of March and April, and the FC had to be held before the end of the project in August.

Taking into account the sociological reality of people living in the Basque Country, August is not a suitable month for any public activity of a non-leisure nature, so the FC had to be held in June or July. The first thing we did was to look for a date for the CF that would be convenient for all the partners involved in those months.

Considering the size of the AGREE project and the number of people who had participated in the project's public activities so far, it was decided that including the CF in the programme of a larger activity would certainly give the day more impact. However, the summer did not offer many opportunities for housing-related events in the immediate area, so this was not a clear option.

While working on the timing of the FC, data was collected on the impact of the project activities, and all the statistics showed that most of the evidence of commitments to carry out energy efficiency work in the residents' communities could only be obtained in September. The conclusion was clear that it was necessary to request an amendment to the Project Financing Agreement to extend the project by three months, until November 2023.

Therefore, after the AGREE ACADEMY meetings, the project activities focused on applying for an amendment to the agreement to obtain an additional three-month extension. The approval of the request was received in the last days of May, so that the date for the FC had to be set for after August.

At the meeting held by AGREE to report on the acceptance of the extension request, it was announced that the national assembly of the AVS (Spanish Association of Public Housing and Land Managers) would be held in the Basque Country at the end of September or mid-October at the latest. In the light of this information, it was considered to be the ideal venue for AGREE's FC.

So we started to design an agenda for the day that would fit into a wider programme and at the same time allow enough time for all project partners to be present and to draw their main conclusions from the project. Consequently, a maximum duration of 2.5 hours was defined, with half an hour for the partners responsible for WP1, 2 and 3 and a quarter of an hour for the partners responsible for WP4 and WP5. In order to maintain a similar distribution of time, the participation of the OPEN GELA project was added to the agenda of the day with an extension of 15 minutes.

However, in mid-September, AVS informed that the date of its meeting had been moved to December, completely outside the project calendar. If the FC were to be held later than November, it would not be possible to justify the cost of organising it, so all the project partners unanimously decided that the AGREE FC would be held as an independent event at the end of November in the General Auditorium of the Basque Government headquarters in Vitoria-Gasteiz. In this way, there was no need to spend money on renting the venue or on the means of broadcasting the event, as the infrastructure provided by the project's coordinating partner could be used.

Once the date for the event had been set, the dissemination work began. Specifically, the following actions were carried out:

- The invitation to be sent to the target audience was agreed and drafted.
- The contact lists and addresses of the target audience were defined.
- The protocol for contacting the target audience was defined.
- The dissemination channels for the event were defined.
- ...

In addition to defining the dissemination activities:

- It was decided to broadcast the event on the Internet.
- A sizing of the possible participants in the face-to-face and online modalities was carried out.
- Quotes were obtained for catering (coffee and final lunch) and translation of the event.
- made room reservations
- Dates were set for connectivity tests and general rehearsals for the day, both on-site and online.

Office 365's TEAMS software was chosen as the first choice for broadcasting the conference, as it is a standard tool used by all AGREE partners in the project. During the first test session

of the conference broadcast, it became clear that this software was not the most suitable for the translation service. The technical staff in the room recommended the use of an alternative software, Zoom, which is also widely recognised for its ease of use for remote meetings and event broadcasting.

At the dress rehearsal for the broadcast, a joint call was made with the translation services, and it was found that the system was working without any problems and that people who wanted to connect from anywhere could do so, as befitted an event of an international nature.

3 Conference contents

The event's table was initially made up of the people who were going to speak in the first part of the session: Housing Basque Government, TECNALIA and IHOBE.

3.1 BASQUE GOVERNMENT HOUSING - Mr. MARIO YOLDI

Mario Yoldi, coordinator of the AGREE project, gave the first presentation of the morning, starting with a presentation of the general objective of the project and then mentioning the partners involved in the project. He continued with a brief summary of how and what AGREE was, as well as the main objectives of the project.

After some short informative notes on the work developed by Basque Government Housing Department as the responsible partner of WP1 for the management and coordination of the project, Mario Yoldi recalled the three cities involved in the project.

Mario then went on to recall the initial planning of the project and how this planning could not be fulfilled due to two events of global impact that occurred during the development of the AGREE project: the CoVID-19 pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine. The impact of these two unfortunate events had different effects on the AGREE project, the most visible of which was the effect on the development time, as the AGREE project had to be extended twice.

In conclusion, Mario Yoldi, on behalf of the Basque Government Housing Department, recalled the main results of the project, highlighting the achievement of the objectives in terms of investment mobilised and the leverage ratio achieved (19.18 against the target of 15.00). The representative of the Basque Government's Housing Department then explained how all the energy impacts measured up to the date of the final conference of the AGREE project had been achieved.

At the end of the AGREE programme coordinator's entertaining presentation, he gave a summary of the Basque Government's vision of the renovation activity in the Basque Country and the wave that is beginning to be felt in this territory.

3.2 TECNALIA – Ms. PATRICIA MOLINA

The second presentation of the day was made by Mrs Patricia Molina on behalf of TECNALIA, the partner that designed the AGREE project and was instrumental in its successful completion.

Patricia commented on her participation by outlining the main keys of the process from the point of view of methodology, governance, funding, training, and dissemination, and finally evaluation and monitoring.

The representative of TECNALIA explained the main methodological innovations presented by the AGREE project, as well as the innovative ideas for improving the governance of building renovation processes that AGREE has put into practice in the selected districts of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basauri and Donostia-San Sebastián.

The representative of the project's intellectual partner then recalled how the action plan initially proposed for the AGREE project had been implemented and commented on the important contributions made by this project through the AGREE Academy.

At the end of her contribution, Patricia, after recalling the main impacts achieved by the project, made several reflections for the future that had been obtained after the implementation of the project. Among these lessons, she highlighted the importance of aggregation, the systematisation of the process and the proactivity of public administrations to achieve the European Commission's objectives regarding the energy renovation of buildings in the Basque Country.

3.3 IHOBE – Mr. AITOR SAEZ DE CORTAZAR

The final contribution to the first part of the day was made by the partner responsible for the communication and dissemination of the project: the public company IHOBE. Mr Aitor Sáez de Cortázar spoke on behalf of IHOBE.

Aitor began his illustrative and interesting presentation with a general overview of the main characteristics of IHOBE and its main professional activities in the field of environmental protection and improving energy efficiency in all areas of society.

After this brief presentation, the IHOBE representative recalled the main objectives of WP5 for which they were responsible and how these objectives were achieved through the creation of dissemination networks that worked at local, regional, and national levels.

In this way, Aitor explained the main tools used by the AGREE project for these purposes, through the web, newsletters, social networks, etc., and how these actions have helped the voice of AGREE to reach the areas needed to achieve the project's objectives.

At the end of his speech, the representative of the partner in charge of the programme's communication presented the project's promotional video to the public for the first time.

After watching the promotional video of the project, there was a short break to have a coffee and, above all, to exchange opinions with the people attending the event live.

3.4 OPENGELA – Mr. ANDONI HIDALGO

After the necessary coffee break and networking, the second session of the morning was opened by Mr. Andoni Hidalgo on behalf of the OpenGela project, which started almost simultaneously with the AGREE project and which shared many characteristics and objectives.

Andoni Hidalgo made his intervention through Zoom because, although he was expected to attend, a personal problem prevented his presence in person. Fortunately, there was no problem to make his presentation through Zoom and all the attendees were very satisfied with Andoni's explanations of his project and, above all, of the second phase of the project that has just started recently.

3.5 BIDEBI – Mr. PEDRO RODRÍGUEZ; DONOSITAKO ETXEGINTZA – Ms. MAIDER ROMAY; ENSANCHE 21 – Ms. MIREN CORTAZAR

The last part of the day was reserved for the intervention of the three urban development companies that are the partners responsible for the communities of people living in the selected buildings in the municipalities targeted by the AGREE project.

Instead of having three presentations in which many ideas were repeated, it was decided to have a dynamic presentation by Mr Carlos López, representing the coordinating partner of the project. In this way, Carlos was able to ask a series of questions aimed at finding out the main aspects that the partners implementing the AGREE project wanted to highlight, such as the main lessons learnt from the project, the main lessons learnt from the mistakes made and the feedback received from the people who have committed themselves to improving the energy efficiency of the buildings in which they live.

The answers given by Pedro, Mainer and Miren to the questions about how the residents of these buildings have lived the experience or what have been the key actions to achieve the agreements of the residents' communities to carry out the rehabilitation works, were the most interesting of the day, so their interventions have been recorded and are available to those who want to request them through the official website of AGREE: <https://agree-basquecountry.eu/>

4 Conclusions

AGREE is and has been a project and an acronym with many meanings. A project that started in September 2019 and will end in November 2023. For this reason, the final conference of the AGREE project was held, which, as we said, is an acronym with a lot of meaning. Although the term AGREE is made up of words that are difficult to translate and understand, AGREE in itself

makes a lot of sense for the project, because fundamentally the aim of AGREE was to get many communities of owners or residents to agree to spend/invest a significant part of their savings in improving something as diffuse as the energy efficiency of the buildings in which they live. It is safe to say that many of these people did not know that a building could be efficient, or even that it had an energy consumption, before being involved in AGREE ...

To conclude these conclusions on the final conference of the AGREE programme, it is worth recalling that it was held on a day broadcast by ZOOM, so that anyone interested could follow the partners' interventions. The whole conference took place without any major technical difficulties, but above all in an atmosphere of cordiality and harmony between the partners involved in the project. The AGREE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under grant agreement no. 847068, but above all it has received energy from the encouragement and drive of its participating partners to face the serious difficulties that have arisen in recent years.

AGREE has achieved its goals. That is why it was started, that is why it is finished.

Below is a selection of images from the day's presentations.



BRECHAS IMPORTANTES

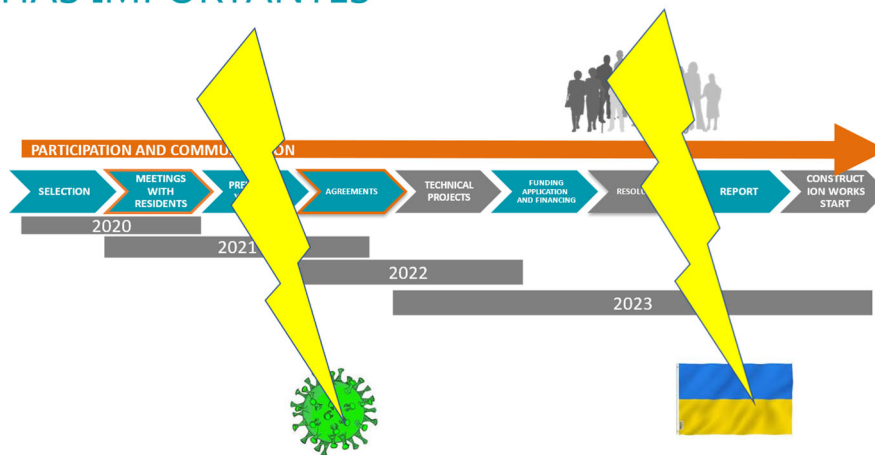


Figure 1 - Basque Government Housing Presentation..



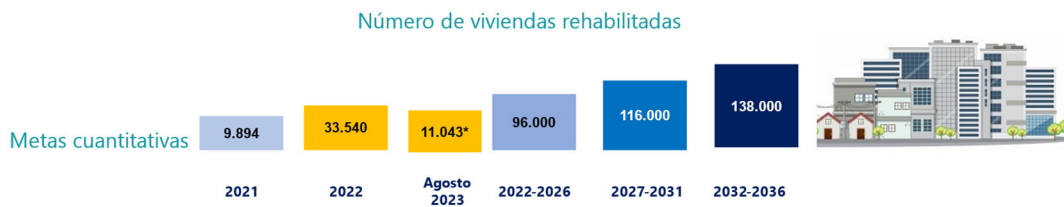
Indicadores de ejecución de la inversión

	Inversiones movilizadas OBJETIVO	Inversiones movilizadas LOGRADAS	Desglose de las inversiones
VITORIA GASTEIZ	1.545.792,42 €	5.468.535,23 €	Edificios: 24 Viviendas: 373
BASAURI	316.942,00 €	1.735.343,29 €	Edificios: 8 Viviendas: 99
DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIÁN	2.664.764,16 €	3.535.975,09 €	Edificios: 14 Viviendas: 130
TOTAL	4.527.498,58 €	10.739.853,61 €	Edificios: 46 Viviendas: 602

Figure 2 - Basque Government Housing Presentation.



Objetivo y ejecución Rehabilitación



* Quedan por contabilizar muchas hasta final de año, y de 2021 a 2023 se cambió el criterio, ahora se cuentan todas las viviendas que están afectadas por una rehabilitación comunitaria, no sólo las que han recibido ayudas

Figure 3 - Basque Government Housing Presentation.



AGREE Claves del proceso

- ❖ Necesidad de un buen diagnóstico: sistematización de metodología
- ❖ Gobernanza:
 - ❖ Liderazgo local de la gestión (sur)
 - ❖ Participación multinivel y multiagente
 - ❖ Apoyo municipal
- ❖ Modelos de financiación
- ❖ Formación, comunicación y difusión
- ❖ Evaluación y seguimiento



Figure 4 - TECNALIA Presentation.



AGREE Claves del proceso

AGREE Academy

...es el **PROCESO DE REPLICACIÓN** del proyecto AGREE

Objetivos:

- ❖ Mostrar los resultados y **maximizar su impacto** en el ámbito local, regional, estatal y europeo
- ❖ Mejorar la **eficacia de los procesos de priorización** de las intervenciones de rehabilitación residencial con alto potencial de ahorro energético
- ❖ Difundir las propuestas que forman parte del paquete de implementación del proyecto en relación con la **activación y la agregación de la demanda**, la **financiación específica** basada en la **segmentación de la demanda** y una **mejora de la gobernanza** que garantice la participación de los residentes.

Figure 5 - TECNALIA Presentation.

Redes principales de disseminación

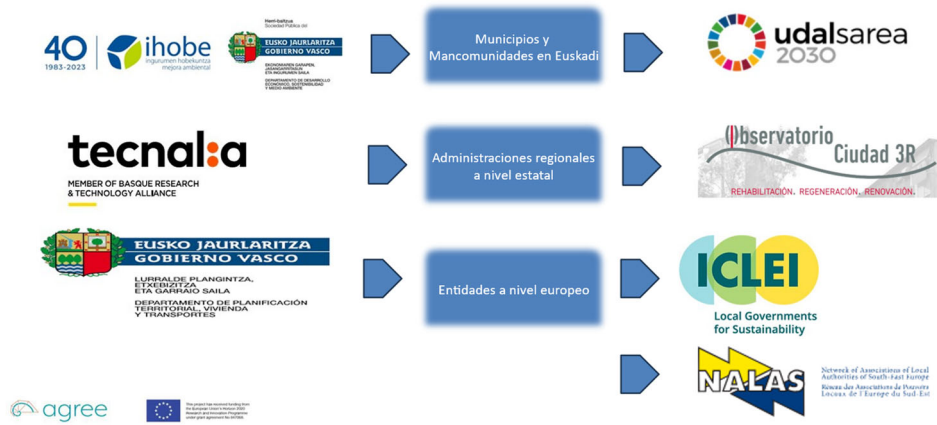


Figure 6 - IHOBE Presentation.

Herramientas

- 294 Seguidores
- 240 Seguidores
- 21.173 Usuarios
- 2000 Suscriptores



Figure 7 - IHOBE Presentation.

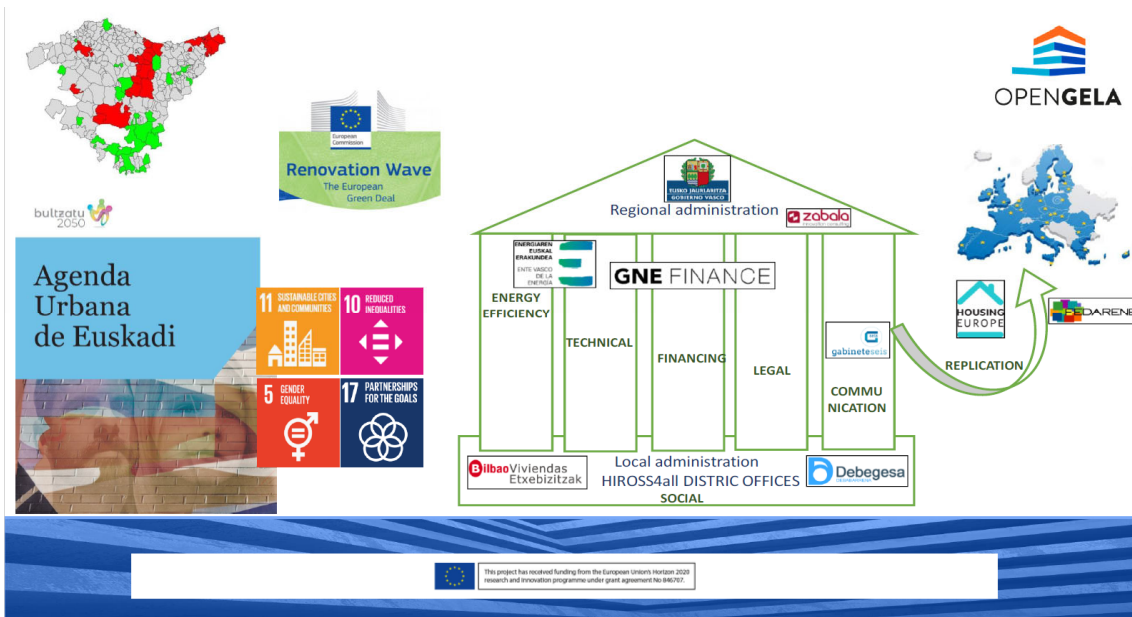


Figure 8 - OPENGELA Presentation.



Figure 9 – Talk by BIDEBI, DONOSTIAKO ETXEGINTZA and ENSANCHE21.

5 Annexes

Below are some of the photos of the buildings rehabilitated thanks to the AGREE program..



Illustration 1 – VITORIA-GASTEIZ.



Illustration 2 – VITORIA-GASTEIZ.