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# Report on EU Exploitation in Observer Regions

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# Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Abbreviations	4
Background and Context	5
Grant Agreement	5
Deviation from Grant Agreement	6
Electric Ireland Superhomes Community of Practice	7
Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: Highly ambitious regions and projects across Europe	8
Electric Ireland Superhomes Community of Practice	9
Community of Practice: Everything you need to know about Home Retrofit	10
Community of Practice: One Stop Shops – European Examples	11
IB Industry Group Visit	12
Other Observer Events	13
Offaly County Council Climate Action Event	13
Energy, Cost & You event	13
Irish Council for Social Housing Conference	13
SEAI Energy Show 2023	14
Eirgrid Event	14
Housing Conference	14

## Executive Summary

Throughout the lifetime of the project there have been many knowledge transfer events that have focused on different stakeholders, including homeowners, contractors and other one stop shops. As part of the Superhomes2030 project there was a specific focus on creating a deep retrofit community of Practice (CoP), and although the in-person aspect of these events that was written in the grant agreement were no longer feasible due to Covid-19 they were very successful in garnering a larger audience from various backgrounds.

In total there was 270 different attendees that attended 4 separate CoP events and the overview of each of the events is outlined below:

Event Name	Date
Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: Highly ambitious regions and projects across Europe	June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021,
Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: Skills Shortage & Training	October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022,
Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: Everything you need to know about Home Retrofit	November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2022,
Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: One Stop Shops – European Examples	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023,

Alongside these events, other meetings and bilateral conversations with industry experts were conducted which will further increase the sharing of experience, knowledge, and competency of the Superhomes2030 project and the interested parties.

## Abbreviations

COP	Coefficient of Performance is a metric of performance of a HP system
CEC	Comfort & Energy in Construction Webinar Series
CR	Croatia
D&C	Dissemination and Communication
DIY	Do It Yourself
EHPA	European Heat Pump Association
EISH	Electric Ireland Superhomes
EPG	Energy Performance Gap
ES	Spain
ESV	Energiesparverband Oberosterreich
FCTA	Fundacion Corporacion Tecnologica de Andalucia
HP	Heat Pump
IERC	International Energy Research Centre
NZEB	Near-Zero Energy Building
RDP	Regional Development Plan
RES	Residential
RINA-C	Rina Consulting SPA
SIE	Sustainable Innovations Europe
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
TUS	Technology University of the Shannon

# Background and Context

## Grant Agreement

There are a number of highly ambitious regions and projects across Europe which are driving innovation and implementation of deep retrofit within the residential market. Superhomes 2030 will, through its partnership with EHPA, and with the assistance of FEDARENE create a Community of Practice. This will include:

- LEADERS: Leading regions/energy agencies/stakeholders who are delivering residential retrofit within the EU. Examples include Picardie Pass (FR), Carbon Coop (UK), ESCAN (ES)
- OBSERVERS: Emerging regions/energy agencies who wish to gain additional knowledge and share experiences with leading regions

LIT will facilitate this Community of Practice which will primarily involve digital communication. This will be hosted on the Superhomes website and relevant outcomes posted on the Knowledge Hub. The Observer communities will be selected through an open call (although a number of observers have already indicated willingness to participate). The EHPA and FEDARENE will promote the participation of Observer Communities (OC).

Two events will be held to empower the observer communities to follow the Superhomes approach. The first event (in Brussels) will be at Month 12 and will seek to gain a buy-in for the observers. Peer to peer meetings will be organised where TEA/LIT will visit the Observer Region to work with the interested parties to consider the application of Superhomes in their regions. Leaders will be invited to share and provide inputs to the Observers and Superhomes2030 teams and a particular focus will be placed on H2020 projects funded under similar calls and regions where relevant technical/financial expertise is available within the field.

In addition, the TEA will host a Community of Practice workshop in Month 24 to aid the further the development of Leaders and Observers. It is proposed that this event is carried out over three days and will include site visits to a number of dwellings, guest speakers from homeowners, contractors, surveyors, scale up experts. It will also hold specific exercises to identify the planned partnership approach of the observers and the TEA.

Dissemination and exploitation activities are integrated throughout the work programme to ensure that there is a continuous and on-going effort to promote the activities and outcomes of the project, gain project “observers” and support others to benefit from the experiences and knowledge gained through the project implementation phases. The project consortium is highly experienced in managing and delivering EU Projects and as a result are widely connected with extensive regional, national, and European networks. Critically, WP7 will also consider internationalisation of the Superhomes model across Europe, in the context of exploitation. There are also opportunities to consider leveraging the IP generated from the Superhomes2030 approach outside of Europe by creating partnerships.

Superhomes2030 has gained interest from 4 observers in Ireland and 3 observers from other countries in Europe (letters of support) known as the Observer Community (OC). These Observers will engage with the project at Month 6, 18 and 30. The project will support the OC to transfer and develop the Superhomes2030 approach within their own regions and countries.

- Dublin City Council: The largest Local Authority in Ireland maintaining 27,000 housing units. Next 3 years to retrofit 8,657 properties. Interested in the Superhomes model to achieve their 5-year energy efficient strategy plan.
- Tipperary County Council: Previously worked with TEA on commercial energy efficient retrofitting projects. Intend to work closely with Superhomes retrofitting model to use in their energy efficiency plan for their existing social housing units in rural Ireland.
- Irish Property Owners Association (IPOA): National association will disseminate to 5,000 members and not only follow Superhomes but also provide input from small landlords.
- ESCAN Energy Agency Advises public institutions, private companies, associations, and other organizations, on how to reach their energy and emissions reduction targets. Superhome2030 is to be followed to assess its viability in Spain.
- REGEA Energy Agency: A prominent figure not only in Croatia but across Europe. Interest is high in replicating Superhomes and participating in the training programmes to initiate Superhomes in Croatia.
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA): Two of the priorities in the new Greater Manchester Strategy is to stimulate the development of further Superhomes for social and multiuse buildings.

## Deviation from Grant Agreement

As the merger of Superhomes with Electric Ireland, some time was lost and connections with observers dwindled. Covid-19 also had an effect on the connection with observers. Instead, an open-source approach using webinars and the Superhomes website was adopted to allow for the free transfer of knowledge not just to the Observers but to contractors, homeowners, and other interested parties.

# Electric Ireland Superhomes Community of Practice

An overview of the Community of Practice events is shown below.

**Table 1 Overview of Community of Practice Events**

Event Number	Event Name	Date	Target Audience	Content
1	Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: Highly ambitious regions and projects across Europe	June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Online Webinar	European Deep Retrofit Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Panel discussion: Highly ambitious regions</li> <li>2. Panel discussion: Introducing the HP4ALL Regional Implementation Plans</li> </ol>
2	Community of Practice: Skills Shortage & Training	October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022, Online Webinar	Contractors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electric Ireland Superhomes presenting our OSS model to contractors.</li> <li>2. Skills shortage (DASBE) and Education (TUS) New developments in the sector</li> <li>3. EHPA: reason why we need to move towards heat pumps – decarbonisation</li> </ol>
3	Community of Practice: Everything you need to know about Home Retrofit	November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2022, Online Webinar	Homeowners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electric Ireland Superhomes presentation 'Everything you need to know about a home retrofit'. 3 case studies will also be included in the presentation.</li> <li>2. SEAI presenting on new grant funding scheme and HP study / Ireland's climate action plan – reason to change over to Heat Pumps</li> <li>3. Q&amp;A with Retrofit Advisor / Engineer and SEAI.</li> </ol>
4	Community of Practice: One Stop Shops – European Examples	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023, Online Webinar	European Deep Retrofit Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electric Ireland Superhomes presenting OSS model.</li> <li>2. Sustainability Works presenting on finance research.</li> <li>3. Basque Region: OpenGela project</li> <li>4. People Powered Retrofit: A Co-op approach to OSS.</li> </ol>

Electric Ireland Superhomes and Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) along with other industry experts all came together to produce 4 online events/conferences titled Deep retrofit 'Community of Practice'. The Deep Retrofit Community of Practice (CoP) across Europe is aimed at leading experts, practitioners and agencies involved in Deep Retrofit and allow the sharing of experience, knowledge, and competency and in the end, driving the retrofit agenda.

## Deep Retrofit Community of Practice: Highly ambitious regions and projects across Europe

### Event Description:

As part of the SuperHomes2030 project, a 'one stop shop' deep retrofit service for domestic homes in Ireland, that aims to dramatically scale this service over 3 years, increasing completed retrofits from 100 houses in 2019 (€6M) to 500 houses in 2023 (€36M). And the HP4All project, that will enhance, develop and promote the skills required for high quality, optimised Heat Pump installations within residential/non-residential buildings, bringing Europe to the forefront of the climatization sector.

This online seminar brings together Ambitious Regions, Regional Implementation Plans and already running Renovation and One Stop Shop EU Funded Projects, to offer a complete outlook for the sector: from up-skilling, policy, implementation, examples, and future development.

Moreover, it looks at replicating and expanding upon the work of diverse actors, while driving the innovation and implementation of the deep retrofit sector and the associated value chain of stakeholders.

### Agenda:

- 10:00 -10:10 Keynote speech and intro (SuperHomes2030 & HP4All): Seamus Hoyne (FEDARENE, LIT, TEA)
- 10:10 -10:40 Panel discussion: Highly ambitious regions (Moderated by Seamus Hoyne)
  - Picardie Pass (FR);
  - Carbon Coop (UK);-(Invited)
  - ESCAN (ES).10:40
- 11:10 Panel discussion: Introducing the HP4ALL Regional Implementation Plans (Moderated by Padraic O'Reilly)
  - Pilot region in Spain by CTA (Technological Corporation of Andalusia);
  - Pilot region in Upper Austria by ESV (ÖÖ Energiesparverband);
  - Pilot region in Ireland by LIT (Limerick Institute of Technology)
- 11:10 -11:55 Project examples: Renovation and One Stop Shop initiatives
- 11:55 -12:15 Q&A session for the previous presented projects (Moderated by Dan Stefanica)
- 12:15 -12:30 Summary and outlook for the sector: Thomas Nowak (EHPA)

In total, there were 131 attendees at this event.





Figure 1 Community of Practice Event 1 Poster

## Electric Ireland Superhomes Community of Practice

The second online conference is aimed at the skills shortage and training in the construction sector., where Electric Ireland Superhomes will share their experiences and the OSS model to contractors followed by guest speakers from the Digital Academy for the Sustainable Built Environment (DASBE) on Skills shortage and New Education developments in the sector and the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA) on the proposed Heat Pump Accelerator: Reason why we need to move towards heat pumps – decarbonization. There were 118 attendees at this event that took place on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: SKILLS SHORTAGE & TRAINING**

Electric Ireland Superhomes & TUS event with guest speakers from the Digital Academy for the Sustainable Built Environment (DASBE) & European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)

**SAVE THE DATE:** October 26th 2022, 10:00am - 12:00pm

**AGENDA**

- Introduction by TUS
- One Stop Shops Partnering with Contractors – Mike O’Rourke, Electric Ireland Superhomes
- Skills shortage and Education New developments in the sector – DASBE
- Heat Pump Accelerator: Reason why we need to move towards heat pumps – decarbonisation - EHPA
- Q&A
- Closing Statements

Logos: electric Ireland Superhomes, TUS Technological University of the Shannon, Digital Academy for the Sustainable Built Environment (DASBE), european heat pump association (ehpa)

Figure 2 Community of Practice Event 2 Poster

## Community of Practice: Everything you need to know about Home Retrofit

This third webinar was aimed at homeowners planning to carry out retrofit measures in their home through an SEAI registered One Stop Shop like Electric Ireland Superhomes. Electric Ireland Superhomes will share their experiences and the OSS model to homeowners followed by guest speaker from Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland, who provide funding for OSS models and retrofits alike. There were 104 attendees at this event that took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



**Figure 3 Community of Practice Event 3 Poster**

### Speakers and Presentation Titles

Title: Electric Ireland Superhomes

Declan presented for Electric Ireland Superhomes on the One Stop Shop model and show three different projects. (Standard approved contractor retrofit, Heat pump +, consultancy with architects. Declan Daly is Head of Engineering at Electric Ireland Superhomes. He has an Honours Degree in Sustainable Energy Technology B. Eng and a Diploma in Construction Management. He manages the retrofit engineering team who carry out energy site audits, procurement of energy projects, designing and sizing M&E. His role also includes contract negotiation and directing work according to the scheduling methodology for the retrofit program.

Title: Home Energy Upgrade

Helen has over 10 years' of experience working with citizens, businesses, and public bodies to help reduce their energy and climate footprints. She has worked in SEAI since 2018 and is currently Programme Manager for SEAI's One Stop Shop scheme. The Stop Shop was launched earlier in 2022 to offer homeowners a hassle-free, start-to-finish project management service for home energy upgrades. Prior to that, Helen worked in SEAI's Business and Public Sector department, developing, and delivering energy efficiency and decarbonisation advice and support for both small businesses and the large industry sector.

## Community of Practice: One Stop Shops – European Examples

This final online conference focuses on three European One Stop Shops – Electric Ireland Superhomes, People Powered Retrofit and OpenGela, the Basque Region – to discuss their approach, service, and process. SustainabilityWorks will also present on residential retrofit finance. There were 129 attendees at this event that took place on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2023.



**Figure 4 Community of Practice Event 4 Poster**

### Speakers and Presentation Titles

Title: Electric Ireland Superhomes - One Stop Shop Approach

Declan is Head of Engineering at Electric Ireland Superhomes. He has an Honours Degree in Sustainable Energy Technology B. Eng and a Diploma in Construction Management. He manages the retrofit engineering team who carry out energy site audits, procurement of energy projects, designing and sizing M&E. His role also includes contract negotiation and directing work according to the scheduling methodology for the retrofit program.

Title: Residential Retrofit Finance – the Irish context

An accountant and tax expert by training, Laura pivoted her career to focus on renewable energy and sustainable finance. She has worked with many companies in the sustainable energy sector on international M&A transactions, finance, and corporate structures. A leading expert in her field, she has in-depth knowledge of the global sustainable finance landscape and has used this knowledge to raise awareness and build engagement in Ireland around the jobs and business opportunities linked to this sector. SustainabilityWorks is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm with expertise in sustainable finance and sustainability strategy, communications, policy, and innovation.

Title: People Powered Retrofit - a one stop 'co-op' shop approach

Jonathan is a co-founder at Community Energy organisation Carbon Co-op and now splits his time as Business Development Director at People Powered Retrofit. A study visits to Superhomes in 2019 helped inform the establishment of the business and Jonathan has been part of the development of the One Stop Shop model, co-authoring People Powered Retrofit's business plan and overseeing the service design of different aspects of the businesses operations.

Title: Opengela, the Basque One-Stop-Shop

Andoni, Founder of Euroiker, has 20 years of experience in positioning companies and entities from various countries before the EU Institutions. He has worked for international companies, public entities, and industry associations from various sectors. In addition to having participated as a speaker at numerous conferences and seminars on European affairs, he has also collaborated as a professor on corporate communication strategies and institutional relations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the University of Alicante.

## IB Industry Group Visit

After the success of the Community of Practice events, Electric Ireland Superhomes and TUS were approached by an attendee of the event, who wished to set up a further meeting to discuss the retrofit market in Ireland and the UK. The meeting was set up on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023, where TUS and Superhomes representatives discussed deep retrofits, heat pump deployment and adoption with the industry group.

**Table 2 Overview of IB Industry Members**

Name	Company	Background	Retrofit expertise
Matthew Tulley	Zero Carbon Yorkshire	Medical device businessman & C Eng. Retrofit enthusiast, wanting to share learning from Ireland	2 houses retrofitted, 1 new PH
Harvey Fremlin	National Self Build & Renovation Centre	MD. Runs a permanent exhibition space in Swindon for over 200 exhibitors. Produces specialist shows, workshops & educational courses.	Internal sustainability champion.
Katy Hardwick	as above	Marketing Manager. Produces regular case studies on energy efficient builds. Also helps produce specialist shows, workshops & educational courses.	Internal sustainability champion.
Chris Procter	Procter-Rihl Architects	RIBA architect, founder member of ACAN, wrote toolkit for retrofit of heritage buildings	PH designer. retrofit own home
Andy Simmonds	Association for Environment Conscious Building (AECB)	CEO of AECB (est. 1989, 2,200 members) – energy standards, training, buildings database, thought leadership. Also, Simmonds.Mills architects.	Science of, course author, retrofit practitioner. Home is EnerPHit.
Melinda Rigby	Cambridge carbon footprint	Leader in local environment and community groups.	Own home retrofit in progress, EWI/IWI trained
John Kerr	Zero Carbon Harrogate	Comms and Engagement. Got grant funding for training in retrofit in Harrogate, establishing a One Stop Shop. Developing retrofit courses with local college	Retrofitting own home. Some installation experience.
Marcus Wearmouth	Future proof Surveys Ltd	Chartered building engineer. Retrofit coordinator	Trained retrofit Coordinator
Roger Harrabin	Freelance	Former BBC Environment analyst. Founder presenter 'Costing the Earth'	Nil
Leyla Boulton	FT	Senior editor Financial Times and development editor FT Live	Campaigning to retrofit listed and conservation-area homes

6



Figure 5 IB Industry Visit

## Other Observer Events

### Offaly County Council Climate Action Event

Mike O'Rourke & Richard Vaughan from Electric Ireland Superhomes attended the Offaly County Council Climate Action event which was a staff awareness and promotional day around all things climate action. Experts gave talks on topics such as Climate/weather, biodiversity, and retrofitting homes.

### Energy, Cost & You event

David Flannery attended two 'Energy, Cost & You' events in Laois and Offaly. The Event was organised by Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity:

*“Due to a perceived rise in misinformation, Minister Hackett organised a ‘myth busting’ public event on retrofitting specifically aimed at the Midlands counties of Laois Offaly and Westmeath. Electric Ireland Superhomes to outline the process of a retrofit”.*

### Irish Council for Social Housing Conference

Electric Ireland Superhomes exhibited at the Irish Council for Social Housing Conference in Sligo with a sponsored coffee break. Mike O'Rourke & Richard Vaughan exhibited.

The conference took place over one full-day (Wednesday 19th October 2022) and one half-day (Thursday 20th October 2022). <https://icsh.ie/press-release-drivers-for-sustainable-financing-and-innovation-for-delivery-key-themes-at-national-social-housing-conference-sligo-19-20-october-2022/>

## SEAI Energy Show 2023

David Flannery presented alongside brand ambassador Hugh Wallace explaining how OSSs work like Electric Ireland Superhomes and how we work with architects. SEAI Energy Show, is Ireland's largest B2B trade show for businesses and professionals working in the energy sector. David Flannery and Hugh Wallace participated in the session 'Pathway to becoming a One Stop Shop: Successfully Delivering building works alongside the OSS' on Wednesday 29th March at 2.30pm in the Minerva Suite at the SEAI energy show RDS.

## Eirgrid Event

A contractor invited Electric Ireland Superhomes to share a stand. Retrofit Engineers Liam Donohoe and José Cordero attended the EirGrid Group Energy Citizens Roadshow Events in Kildare and Maynooth this week. We were delighted to be hosted on the Crystal Air Ltd stand who are an approved contractor with Electric Ireland Superhomes.

## Housing Conference

Mike O'Rourke and Richard Vaughan attended with a stand at the event. Eolas Magazine organised its eighth annual Housing Ireland conference, which examined the key challenges facing Ireland's housing policymakers and senior practitioners across the sector. The conference took place on 12 January 2023 in the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Dublin.