

PROVISIONS FOR GREATER REUSE OF STEEL STRUCTURES - PROGRESS

Goal of the project

The PROGRESS project will provide methodologies, tools and recommendations on reusing steel-based components from existing and planned buildings. The project particularly targets the design for deconstruction and reuse of envelopes, load-bearing frames, trusses and secondary elements of single-storey buildings framed in steel. This building type has broad applicability as industrial, commercial, sports, exhibition, warehouse facilities, and shows most potential in suitability for reuse and viability for circular economy business models. The whole life benefits of reusable single-storey steel buildings will be quantified from environmental and economic viewpoints. The outcomes will be extensively disseminated in particular among manufacturers, designers, contractors and researchers.



Short description of the project

The main objective of the proposal is to develop products, systems, methods and protocols that facilitate reuse of various components of steel-framed single-storey buildings. The proposed project addresses both deconstruction and reuse of existing buildings and how new buildings can be designed, constructed and documented to facilitate future reuse. Its scope includes: (a) primary structures (frames), (b) secondary structures, (c) envelope components and hybrid multi-material systems.

Project implemented by

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd., (VTT, Finland)

Implementation period

01.07.2017-30.06.2020

Main activities

- review of the experiences from the successful reuse and deconstruction projects collected by the project partners and from the practitioners in the building industry;

Table 1. Reuse scenarios

	In-situ	Same site		Different site	
		Same configuration	Different configuration	Same configuration	Different configuration
Entire primary structure	A	B	C	D	E
Elements of the primary structure	N/A	N/A	F	N/A	G
Individual elements	N/A	N/A	H	N/A	I

- propose methods for the assessment of suitability of materials and elements for the reuse, including recommendations for their modification/adaptation to fit in the new design;
- propose technical recommendations for the increase of reusability of the components to be provided on component and building design levels.
- propose novel hybrid solutions for envelopes of single-storey buildings, either new buildings or renovation projects, that improves the thermal performance of the entire building, service life of envelopes and reusability of solutions themselves;
- propose a methodology to quantify and declare the environmental benefits of reused elements, resulting in recommendations on the circularity and LCA methodology;
- provide benchmark for demolition, classification and testing/verification protocols developed on a real deconstructed building including the laboratory tests to identify mechanical and chemical properties of the materials;
- design case studies to cover the most common reuse situations.

Results

- The outcomes of the project will include recommendations to:
- Reduce the technical barriers to reuse through establishing the quality verification procedures for the structural elements and envelopes of deconstructed low-rise buildings to be reused;
- Simplify the implementation of reusable components through recommendations for design for deconstruction and reuse, and for design using reclaimed elements as well as for safe and efficient deconstruction activities;
- Support the product manufacturers', facility owners' and designers' decision making by recommended methodology to calculate the environmental impact and cost of steel components reusing;
- Develop an online reused steel trading portal to co-ordinate the supply and demand for reused steel-based components;
- Develop novel types of hybrid solutions for envelopes in order to improve the thermal performance of a building, extend the service life of an envelope and maximize the reuse potential of components.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The majority of existing steel low-rise buildings can be deconstructed into elements such as cold-formed or hot-rolled sections, sheets, panels, frames or truss girders. These components have very high reuse potential, but require verification of the material quality, dimensions and tolerances in order to be included in new building projects. The future reuse of modern buildings, however, may be different, because those structures are increasingly designed as systems and their design information can be easily maintained for instance as a building information model (BIM).

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Research Centre

Research Center for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety (CEMSIG), Politehnica University Timișoara

Contact information

Acad. Dan DUBINA, PhD
 Faculty of Civil Engineering
 Department of Steel Structures and Structural Mechanics
 Phone: (+40) 256 403920
 Mobile: (+40) 740 137610
 E-mail: dan.dubina@upt.ro
 Web: www.ct.upt.ro

Prof. Viorel UNGUREANU, PhD
 Faculty of Civil Engineering
 Department of Steel Structures and Structural Mechanics
 Research Institute for Renewable Energy (ICER-TM)
 Address: Str. Ioan Curea, No. 1, 300224, Timișoara
 Phone: (+40) 256 403912
 Mobile: (+40) 740 137640
 E-mail: viorel.ungureanu@upt.ro
 Web: www.ct.upt.ro