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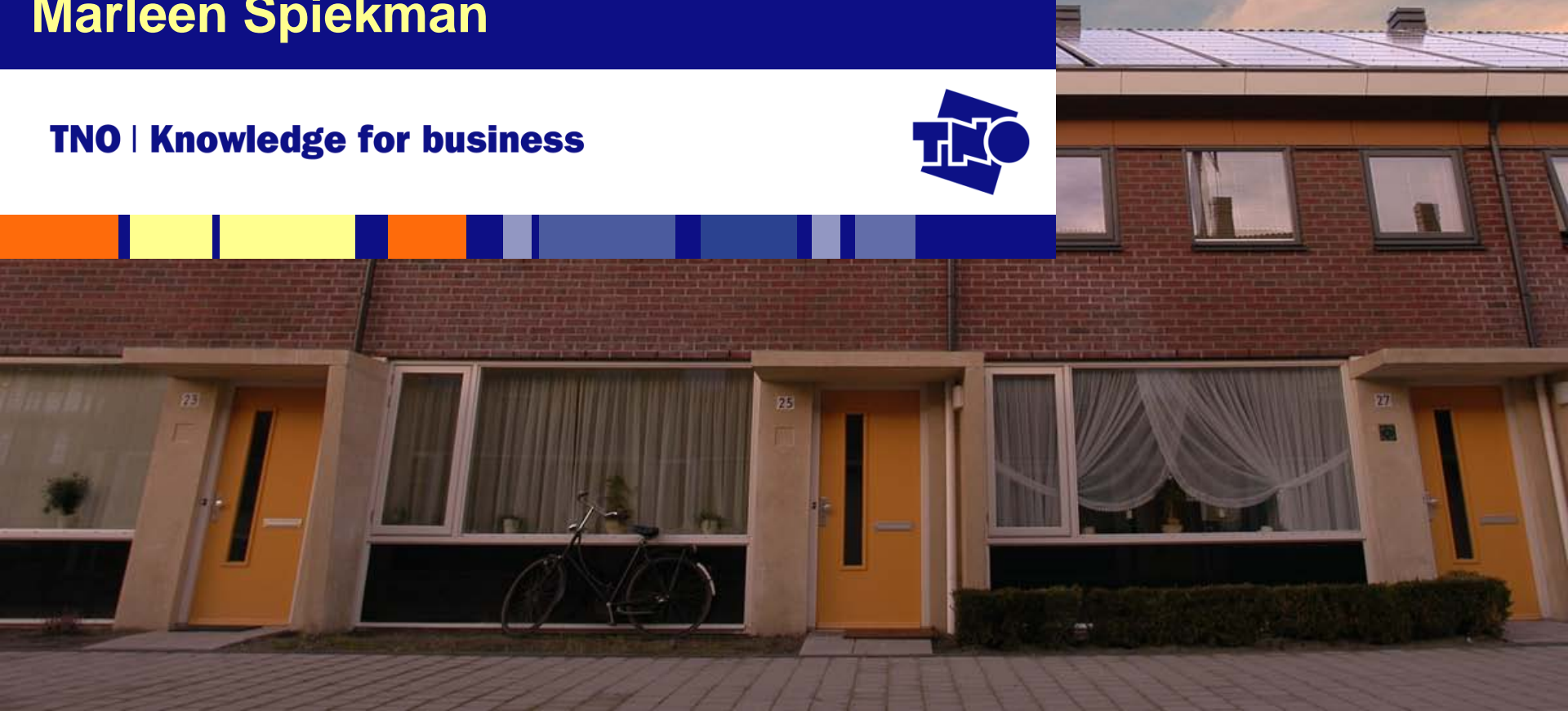
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Stimulating innovation with EPBD

What countries can learn from each other

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TNO | Knowledge for business





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Why different equivalence procedures?

- 4 country presentations:
 - Wide variety of equivalence procedures
 - Different needs for equivalence procedure itself
 - Different needs for form and content of the procedure
- Can we learn from each other?
- Yes, we can!

EP-method versus equivalence

- National EP-method: open versus fixed method
- Advantages open method:
 - “No barrier to take into account innovations”:
 - No extra costs for innovations
 - No delays with respect to approval of innovations
- Disadvantages open method:
 - Higher level of expertise needed for:
 - Making the calculation
 - Checking compliance

Compliance and control

- Almost everywhere: technical expertise (local) authorities not sufficient
 - Possibility to hire experts
 - Procedure often based on trust
- Motivation some countries (e.g. BE, NL):
 - Open method is not an option
 - Examples national experience:
 - BE: Compliance and control of “K-peil” → need for completely prescribed method with heavy control

Issues with equivalence

- Main issue equivalence:
 - It is not unambiguous how to take into account a certain innovative product → is the equivalence study 'correct'?
- Due to:
 - Complexity of product
 - Lack of fixed calculation frame: making a calculation method is not 100% physics! Many 'arbitrary' choices hugely influence final outcome
- No (few) problems occur when:
 - Independent (!) experts (!) make the study
 - (local) Authority is able to perform proper check

Issues with equivalence

- Problems do occur when:
 - Expertise is not sufficient
 - The 'expert' is not independent
 - AND: stakes are high → who decides about the arbitrary choices?
 - Example: NL with very tight EP-requirement levels
- When not all equivalent studies are trustworthy:
 - Building owners will invest in 'bad' products and energy savings will not be realized
 - People will doubt the studies of proper innovations as well
- → This is a barrier for innovations as well!

How do countries deal with equivalence?

Globally (!) we see 2 routes:

1. Heavy framework, on central level, highly qualified independent experts, hired (and paid!) by authority, time consuming, expensive
2. No or light framework, control on local level, often based on trust, quick and relative cheap

Each with its own barriers for innovation:

- Route 1 can be a barrier due to effort, time delays (and money)
- Route 2 can be a barrier due to quality issues and a growing lack of trust for all innovations

Technical framework equivalence

- Many countries:
 - Very global technical framework
 - Assumptions need to be similar as in national EP-method
 - Some: fixed values in national EP-method cannot be changed
 - Others: national building legislation makes fixed values impossible

Assumptions: user behavior

- Equivalence: often assumptions for adjustments in user behavior
- Various countries: user behavior is fixed
 - E.g. Norway: fixed or changes based on statistical data
 - Often: no statistical data available

Product improvements

- In many countries: no distinction between product improvements and completely new products
- In (e.g.) DE & FR:
 - no equivalence study for product improvements
 - Rating/measurements via accredited organizations → quality
 - Data in public databases
 - What happens with foreign products?

Other differences: Who pays?

- Industry or government?
- 2 opposite arguments:
 1. “It is not the fault of the industry that their product is not taken into account in the national EP-method, so government should pay for the equivalence study”

Opposed to:

2. “The industry has to prove the feasibility and efficiency of their new product. They will earn a lot of money if the product will reduce the EP-level significantly, so they themselves need to pay for the equivalence study”

Upgrade of national method

- Some countries upgrade national method directly once equivalence study is made
- Others wait: the product first needs to prove itself in practice
- FR: two possibilities for equivalence studies :
 - Quick: for an identified project: the study will be limited to the specific project
 - Thorough: for all projects: the study will be published as a text of law and will be a part of actual regulation

Conclusions

- Many ways to deal with innovations
- Logical reasons behind national differences
 - Differences in national EP method
 - Boundaries due to national building code
 - Compliance and control system
 - Cultural aspect
 - Market interest

Conclusions

- There are various barriers for innovations:
 - Equivalence study itself
 - Extra effort
 - Extra costs
 - Extra delays
 - Possible bad quality of studies

Conclusions

- Main issue: how to deal with complex products & 'arbitrary' choices
 - Independent field experts
 - Control
 - Independent (national) committee of experts
 - Clear rules how to deal with user behavior and other assumptions
 - How to deal with effort and delay issue:
 - Reduce amount of studies by alternative solution for product improvements
 - Develop parallel quick and thorough route
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