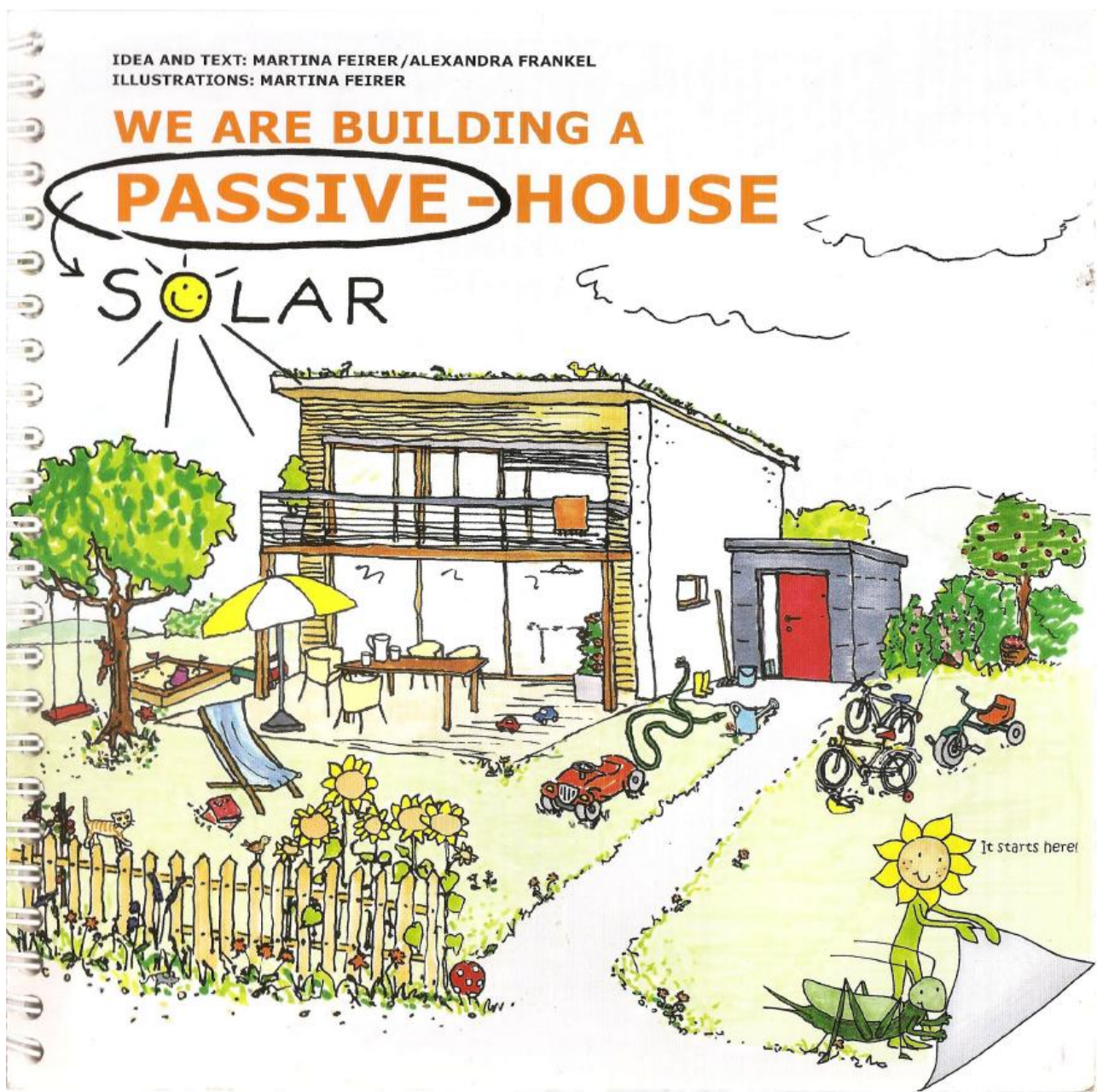


## Solar House Book – Project Outline

### Concept

The project concept is to explain and promote to school children the importance of low-energy-consuming buildings as a key part of achieving a carbon neutral society and so meeting climate change objectives. The medium for this is a book 'We are Building a Solar/ Passive House' written specifically for children by two Austrian architects specialising in low energy buildings. There will be project worksheets to help teachers in project work based on the book. The target audience is 8 to 12 year-olds in the 163 basic schools in Montenegro. Children are a proven means of passing information to their parents about the effect of human activity on the environment. As adults they will have to deal with adverse climate change as well as mitigating further deterioration in the Earth's environment.



The Bureau for Educational Services, an agency of the Montenegro Ministry of Education, has agreed that the book can be used in schools and will help both to identify initial target schools and to promote the book and associated projects. Additionally, the Montenegro Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism and

the Montenegro Ministry for Economy will be asked for their moral support (the first because of its remit for sustainability, and the second because of its remit for fuel economy and renewable energy).

Financial sponsorship will be sought both from international agencies with appropriate programmes and commercial entities in Montenegro which have Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes for funding such projects.

The project will be implemented by the Montenegro Green Building Council (GBC ME), a NGO which has a successful track record of implementing international and national projects.

### **The Book**

The book 'We are Building a Solar/ Passive House' was conceived and written by two Austrian architects specialising in low-/ zero- energy consuming buildings and was first published in Austria in 2008. It has since been translated and published in a significant number of countries, including Japan. Although designed for children, adults also appreciate its clear diagrams and easily understood text.

Two of the GBC's Founding Members, James Collins and Anke Harris-Collins (initiators and owners of the Eco House Risan, a house designed to German Passive House standards) have been given permission to publish the book in Montenegro on a non-profit basis.

Physical production of the book will be done by a specialist production company in Austria as part of a multi-language print run. It is envisaged that 1000 copies of the Montenegrin edition will be produced.

### **Passive Houses**

The Passive House concept was originated in Darmstadt, Germany by Prof Dr Wolfgang Feist who had a block of houses built to five low energy consumption principles he developed. Those houses 25 years later are still performing to their original design standards for low energy consumption and high interior comfort. The Passive House standards have since become a world-wide recognised benchmark for practical energy efficiency in all types of buildings, both new builds and renovation.

### **Montenegro Green Building Council**

Registered formally as a NGO in December 2010, GBC ME is an association of companies and other organisations with the aim of promoting best practice in sustainable construction. It is a 'Developing Economy Prospective Status' Member of the World Green Building Council network of national Green Building Councils. GBC ME successfully implemented its part in the international Adriatic IPA project 'LEGEND' on geo-thermal energy (<http://www.legend-geothermalenergy.eu/>) . Through its Green Building Professional training programme, GBC ME has up-skilled over 30 building professionals in Montenegro to give them advanced knowledge on sustainable building design and practices.

### **Finance Required**

Production costs are the largest single expense at approximately EUR13.000 (including translation). Promotion to teachers, web-site creation and school project materials, as well as necessary administrative expenses, are likely to be about EUR15.000 .A detailed budget will be prepared to support a formal project proposal.

### **Timescale**

Current planning is for a formal project proposal to be submitted to all potential interested parties by the end of October 2017, in time for the annual project approval round. If approved for funding, the project would be implemented during 2018.

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