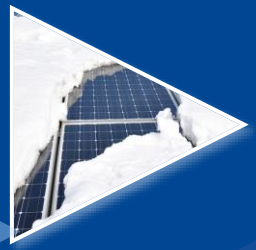


Solar Energy in Built Environments: Opportunities, challenges and barriers

COST Action CA16235 PEARL PV

PV in the built environment (WG4) - Tuesday 15.03.2022

Gabriele Lobaccaro

Associate Professor

E-mail: gabriele.lobaccaro@ntnu.no

NTNU | Kunnskap for en bedre verden

What do I wish you to remember from the presentation?

- **The solar energy potential exists in any latitudes and climates**
- **The solar energy potential can be calculated and optimized at the building and neighborhood level**

SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL

01

The solar energy potential

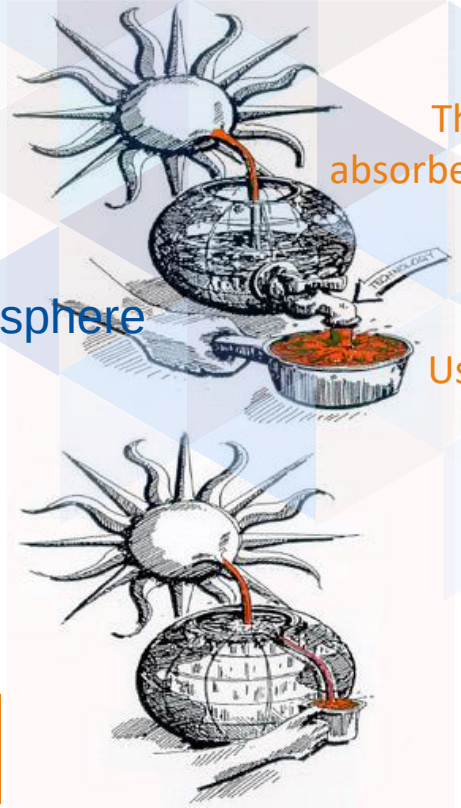
- Solar energy potential
- Opportunities for the solar energy potential in different latitudes

What shall we do?

- Reduce energy consumption
- Reduce CO_2 emissions into the atmosphere
- Implementation of renewable energy

↓

+ **Maximize solar energy**



The total solar energy absorbed from the earth is equal:

3,850,000 EJ

Use of primary energy in 2019 was equal:

510 EJ

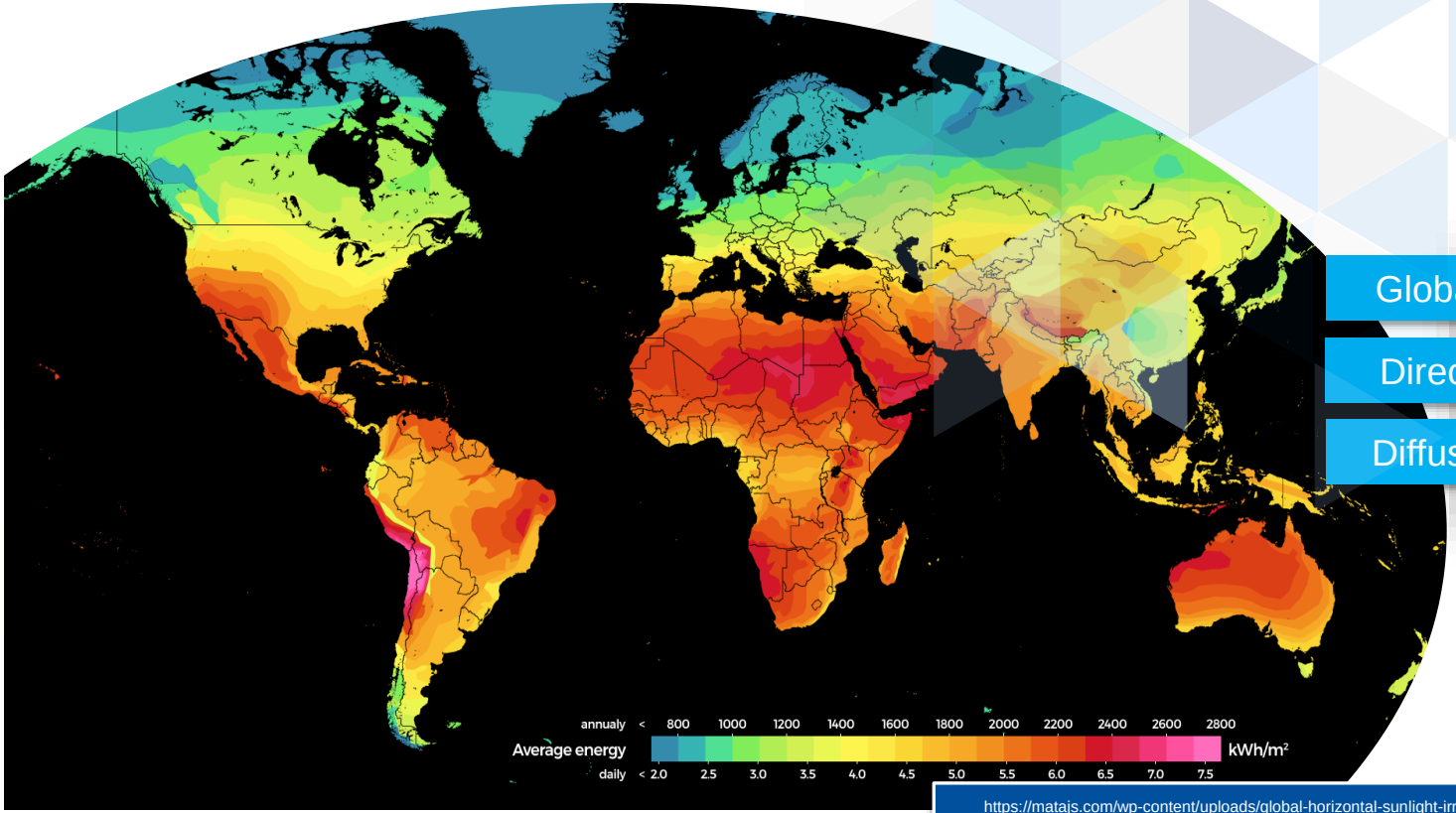
Electricity:

62EJ

International Energy Agency

Reference: International Energy Agency

Solar energy potential in the world



https://matajs.com/wp-content/uploads/global-horizontal-sunlight-irradiation-kwh-year-day.png

Global

Direct

Diffuse

Plane and components

PV Landscape in Nordic climate

Solar radiation

Amibient temperature

Wind speed

Meteo data

Reference: Winter workshop 2015 NTNU/University of La Reunion

Referanse: fjordkraft.no

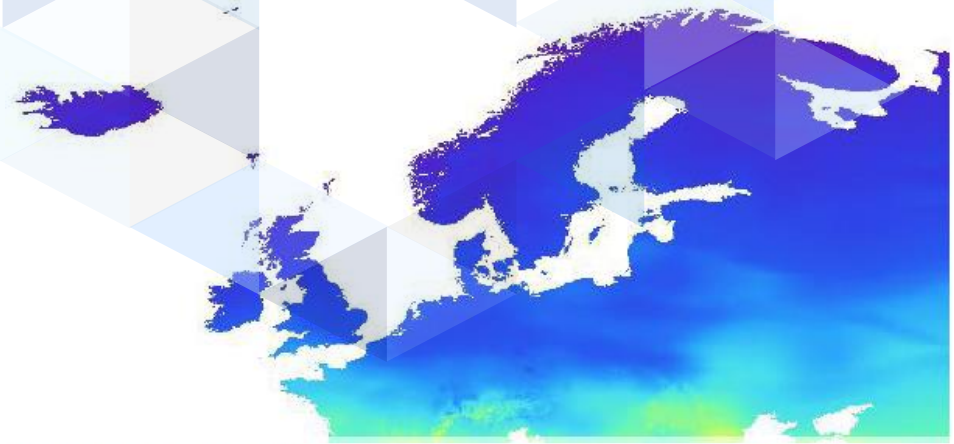
CHALLENGE SOLAR

i nordiske klima!

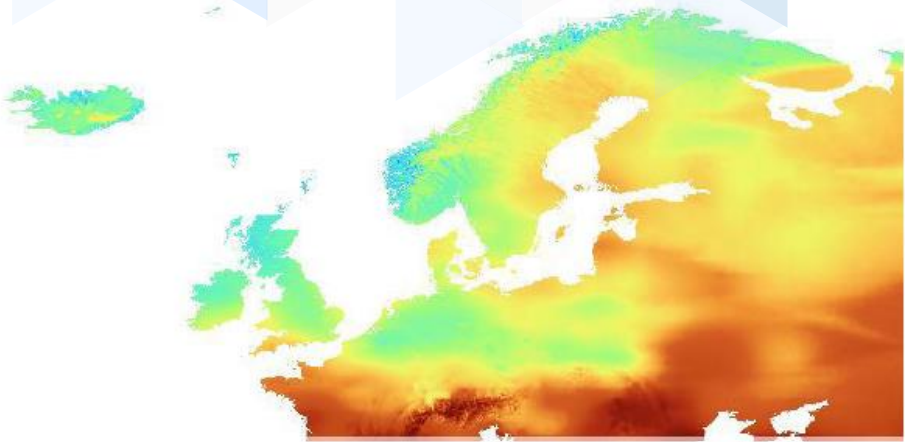
Solar energy potential

NorthSol Solar Power Plants in the Nordic Climate
Common notions and myths

- Too little sunlight — FALSE
- Too expensive — FALSE
- Too cold — FALSE: Lower temperature gives higher efficiency



Solar radiation on a horizontal surface (kWh/m²år)



Solar radiation on a 2-axis solar tracking surface (kWh/m²år)

Solar energy potential

Annual hours of sunshine - all over the world

Country	City	Annual Sun Hours
UK	London	1500
Germany	Freiburg	1700
Sweden	Piteå	2000
Australia	Melbourne	2100
Italy	Florence	2500
USA	San Diego	3000

Reference: Norden

Solar cells in the Nordic climates

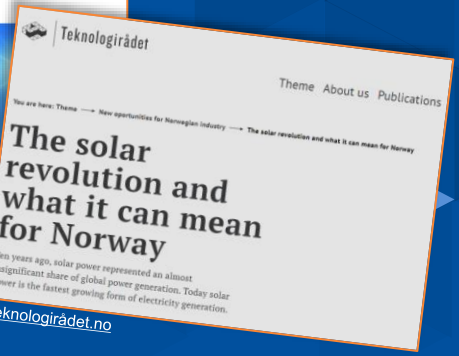
Framtida.no

Gemini.no

Pv-magazine.com

Nrk.no

Fjordkraft.no



Teknologirådet.no

NyttNorge.com

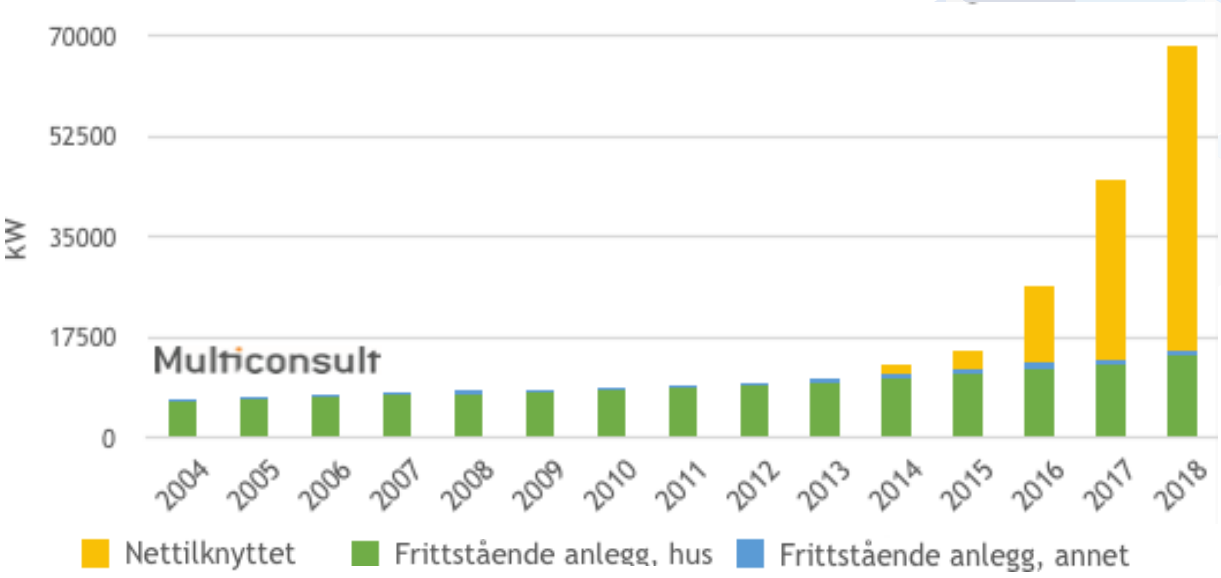
Nrk.no

Referanse: flere

Blackboard

Solar installation in Norway

Akkumulert installert effekt i Norge



Referanse: solenergiklyngen.no og multiconsult.no og tu.no

SOLAR ENERGY AND INTEGRATION OF SOLAR CELL SYSTEMS FROM BUILDING LEVEL TO NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL

02

Solar cells at building level and neighborhood level

- Problems and strategies
- Case studies and simulation tools

Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV)

+ Primary weather protection: rain, snow, wind, hail

+ Noise protection

Adlershof Scientific Park
Berlin - Germany

Frodeparken
Uppsala - Sverige

+ Safety

deltaZERO,
Lugano - Switzerland

+ Daylighting

+ Energy economy

+ Distinguish between indoor and outdoor environments

+ Structural integrity

+ Mechanical rigidity

Lyon Confluence
france

Brise-soleil photovoltaïque «Le Albere» , Trento - Italy

+ Shading systems

+ Thermal insulation

+ Fire protection

Reference: International definitions of «BIPV»

Integration of solar cells in building level

Reference: Plan og Bygningsloven (PBL), huseierne.no og solenergi.no

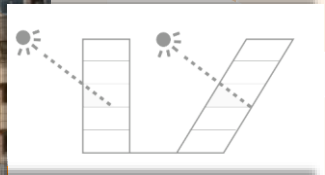
Optimization of solar buildings

Isolated building optimization

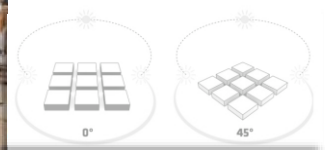
Reference: Flere

Solar strategies at the neighborhood level

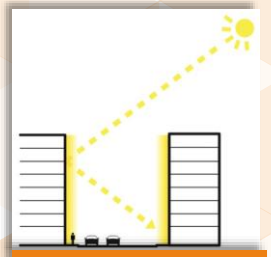
Sorrounding landscape



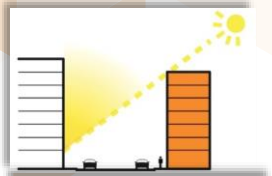
The depth of the spaces
% of glazed facades



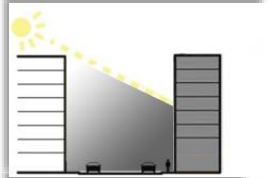
Neighborhood orientation



Solar reflection



Solar accessibity

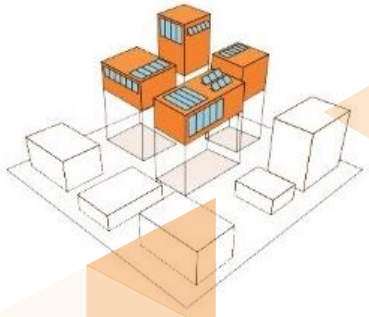


Overshadowing

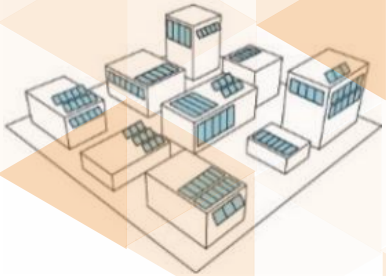
Reference: London (Bildet: Gabriele Lobaccaro)

Built environments

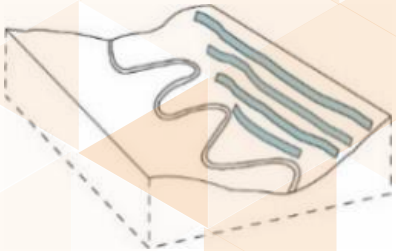
New urban areas



New buildings in existing urban area



Interventions in existing urban areas

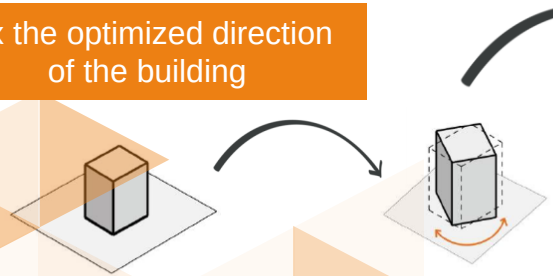


Landscape

Reference: Referanse: Lobaccaro G., Croce S., Lindkvist C., Munari Probst M.C, Scognamiglio A., Dahlberg, J., Lundgren M., Wall M., A cross-country perspective on solar energy in urban planning: lessons learned from international case studies, (2019), Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews , pp. 209-237

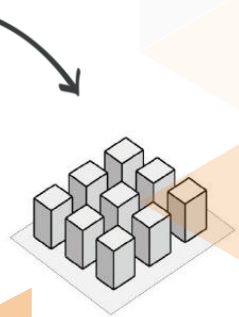
Solar energy from building level to neighborhood level

Fix the optimized direction of the building



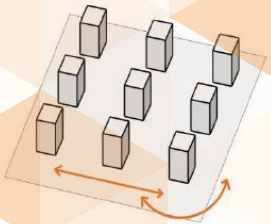
isolated scenario

Calculation of direct radiation

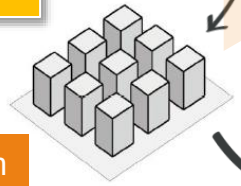


Urban scenario

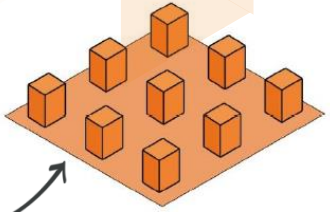
Calculation of direct radiation



Optimize the orientation of the neighborhood



Fix the optimized direction of the neighborhood

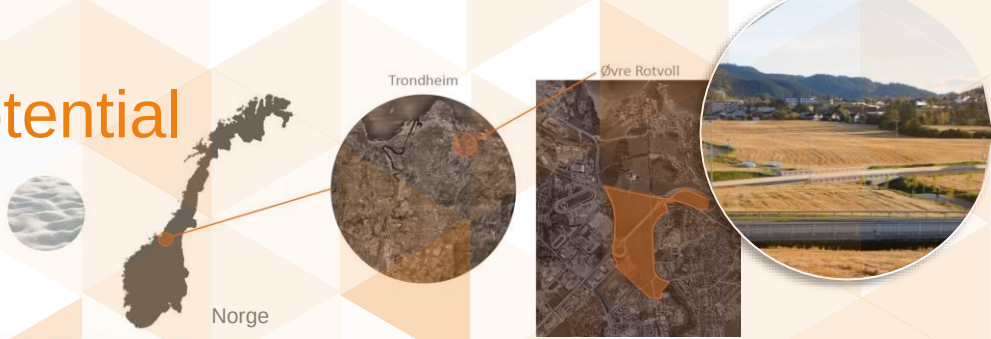


Study interactions between solar energy

Calculation of global (direct + diffuse + reflected) solar radiation

Solar accessibility and Solar reflections

Case study of solar energy potential in Norway



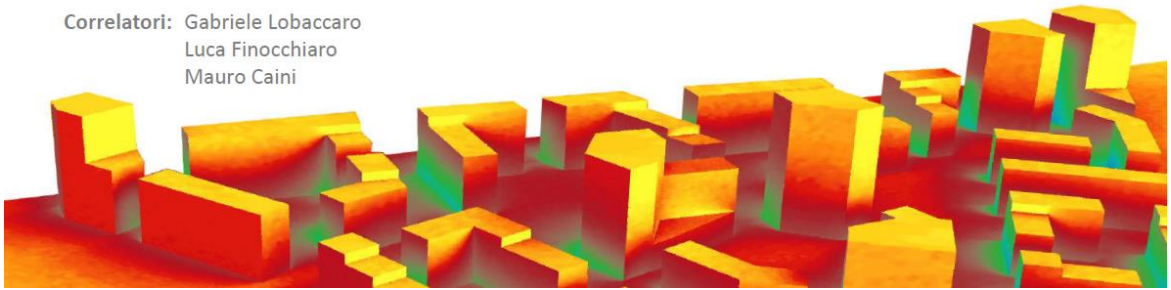
SOLAR POTENTIAL OPTIMIZATION IN URBAN PLANNING IN EXTREME COLD CLIMATE CONDITIONS

Design guidelines for solar accessibility and solar design for developing the masterplan of Øvre Rotvoll neighbourhood in Trondheim (Norway)

Relatore: Rossana Paparella

Correlatori: Gabriele Lobaccaro
Luca Finocchiaro
Mauro Caini

Laureanda: Silvia Croce



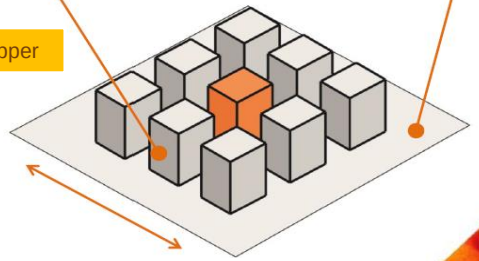
Reference: Lobaccaro G., Carlucci S., Croce S., Paparella R., Finocchiaro L., Boosting solar accessibility and potential of urban districts in the Nordic climate: A case study in Trondheim, Solar Energy Vol. 149, (2017), pp. 347-369.

Case study of solar energy potential

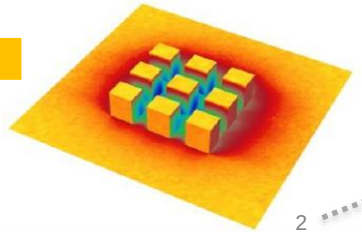
Albedo of facades (reflection coefficient)

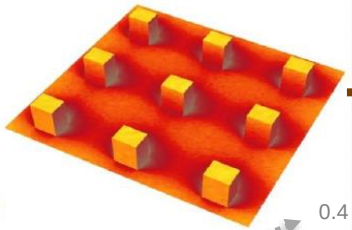
Albedo of the ground (reflection coefficient)

Rhinoceros + Grasshopper



Ladybug + DIVA for Rhino



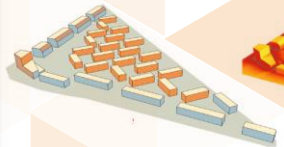


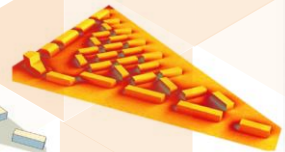
0.4

2

1- Simple district

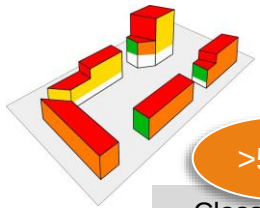
Guidelines for master plan





Optimized configuration and energy analyzes

umi



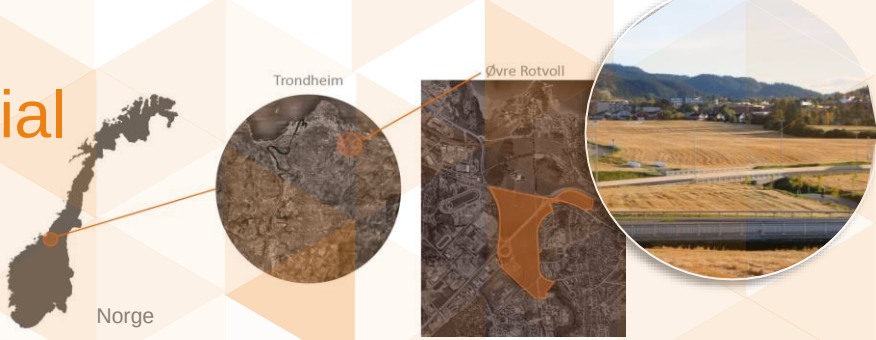
>55%

Class A

2- Complex district

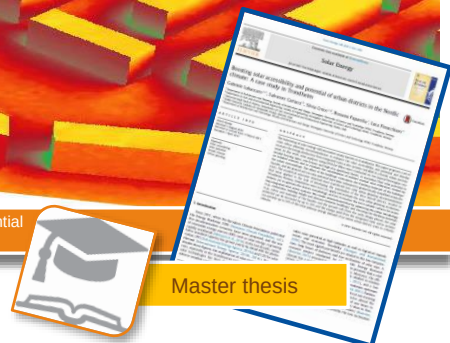
Reference: Lobaccaro G., Carlucci S., Croce S., Paparella R., Finocchiaro L., Boosting solar accessibility and potential of urban districts in the Nordic climate: A case study in Trondheim, Solar Energy Vol. 149, (2017), pp. 347-369.

Case study of solar energy potential in Norway



Masterplan of Øvre Rotvoll

Reference: Lobaccaro G., Carlucci S., Croce S., Paparella R., Finocchiaro L., Boosting solar accessibility and potential of urban districts in the Nordic climate: A case study in Trondheim, Solar Energy Vol. 149, (2017), pp. 347-369.



Master thesis

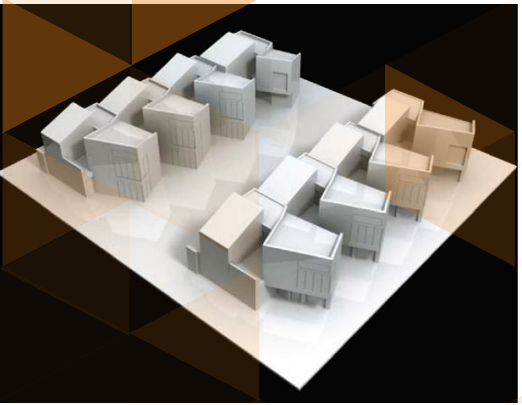
Italian case study– Villaggio violino (Brescia)

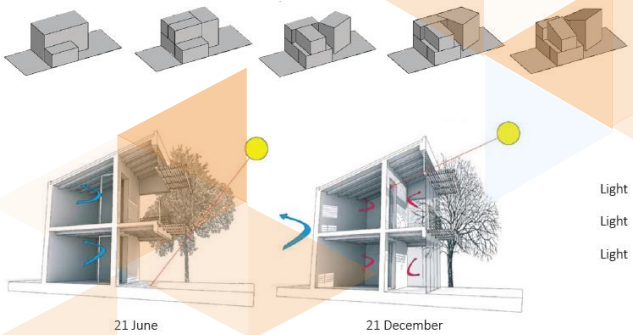
Reference Task 51 Solar Energy in Urban Planning (© BAMSphoto - Basilio)

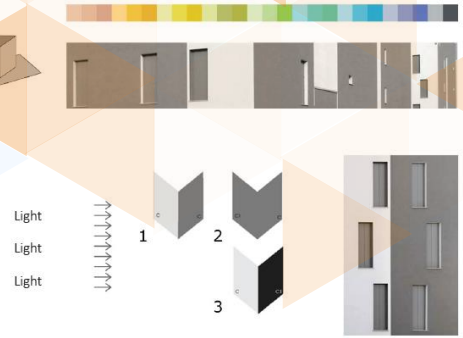
Italian case study– Villaggio violino (Brescia)

Reference Task 51 Solar Energy in Urban Planning (© BAMSphoto - Basilio)

Italian case study– Villaggio violino (Brescia)





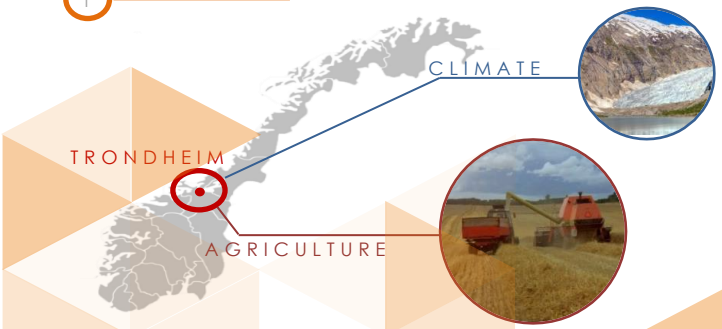


Italian case study– Villaggio violino (Brescia)

Reference: Task 51 Solar Energy in Urban Planning (© Alberto Mucciaccia)

Analysis of the solar energy potential in the urban area

1 NORWAY

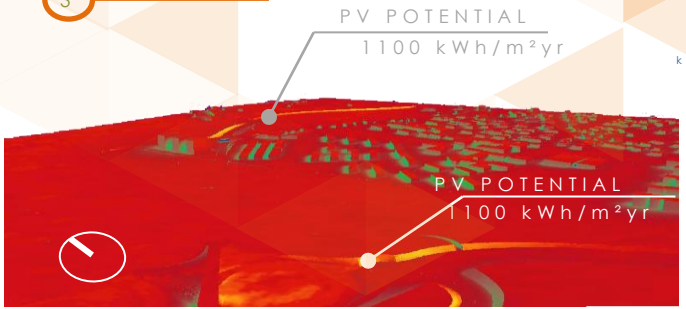


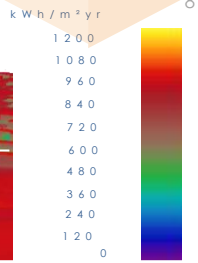
SOLAR POTENTIAL ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE

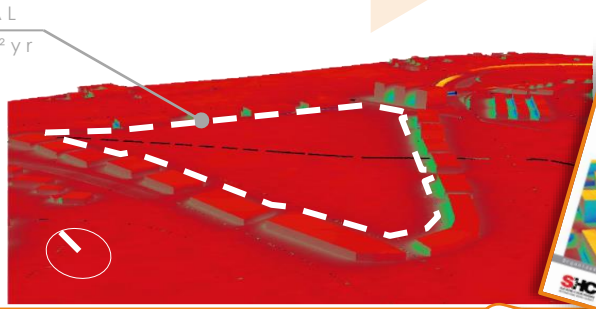
2 EXISTING BUILDING ANALYSIS

SITE DESCRIPTION

3 SCENARIOS

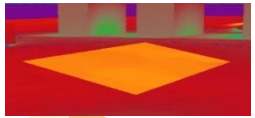






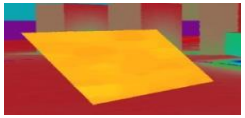
Reference Winter workshop 2015 NTNU/University of La Reunion

Analysis of the solar energy potential in the urban area



PV 0°

860 KWh/m²yr



PV 37,5°

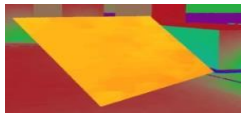
1104 KWh/m²yr

+ 28%

PV 12,5°

987 KWh/m²yr

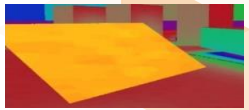
+15%



PV 45°

1115 KWh/m²yr

+29.5%



PV 25°

1065 KWh/m²yr

+24%

SUN PATH

AGRICULTURAL FARM

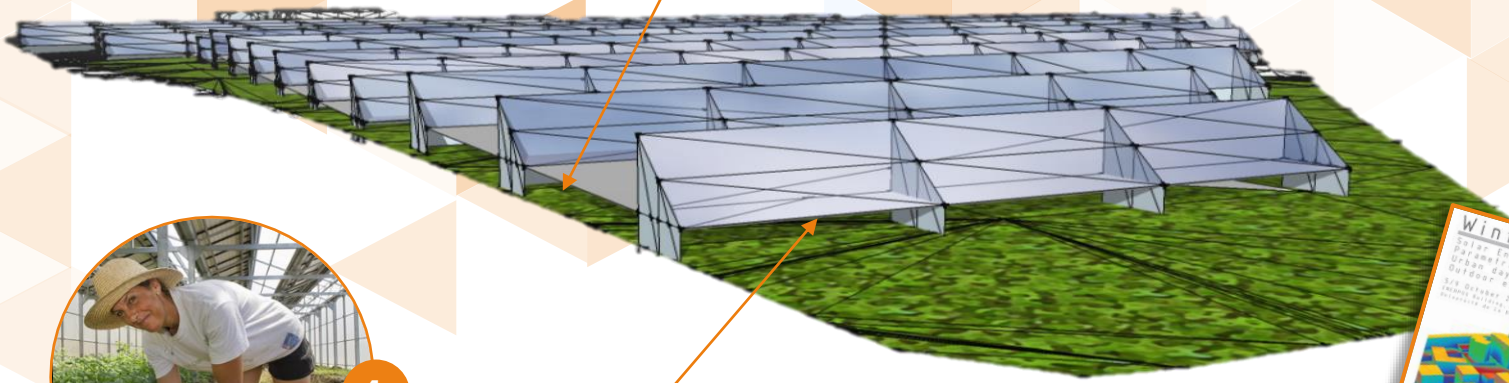
PRINCIPAL ROAD

Solar farm & PV barriers

PV FARM

INSTALLED AREA: 14656 m²

ENERGY TOTAL: **16,3 GWh**

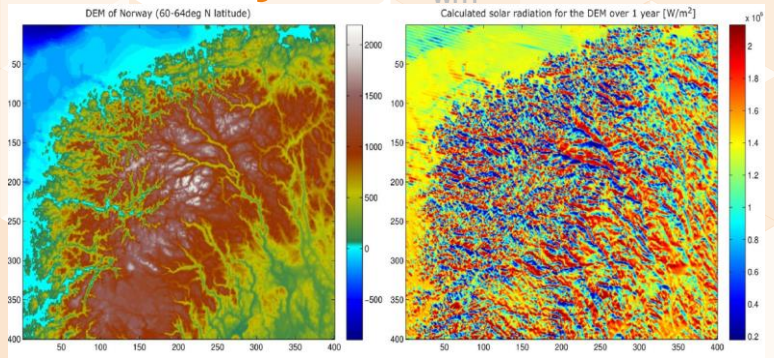


AVERAGE ENERGY: 1115kWh/m²yr

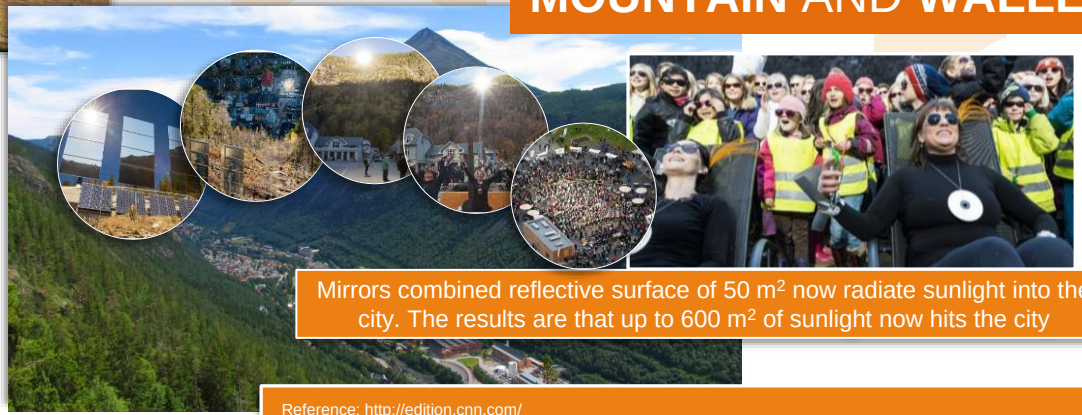
Reference Winter workshop 2015 NTNU/University of La Reunion

Solar energy potential vs Orography in Norway

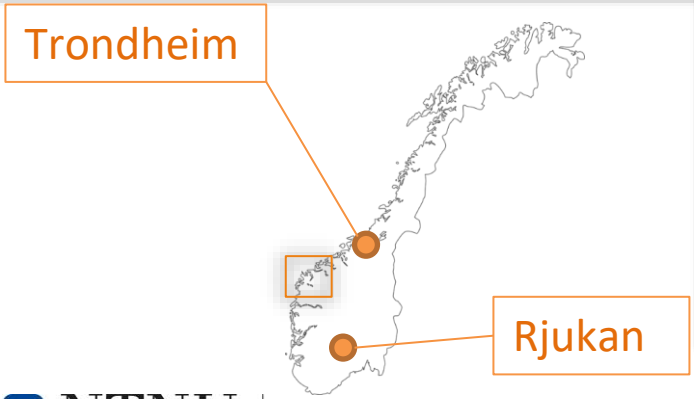
FLAT terrain



MOUNTAIN AND **WALLEY**

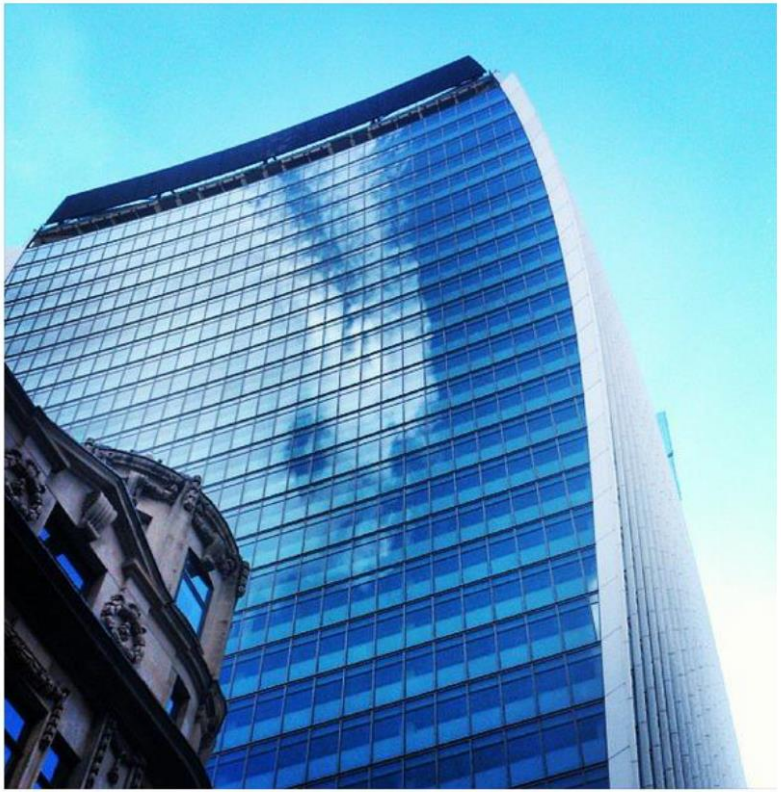


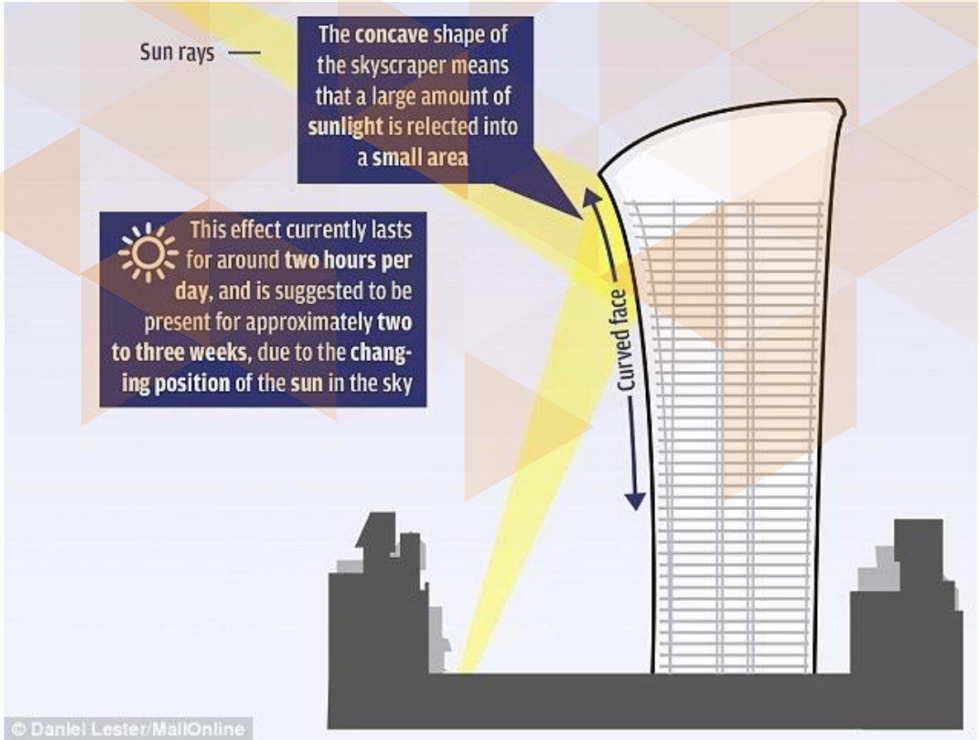
Mirrors combined reflective surface of 50 m² now radiate sunlight into the city. The results are that up to 600 m² of sunlight now hits the city



Reference: http://edition.cnn.com/

Sun reflection in cities





Reference: 20 Fenchurch Street (Sky Garden) – London; Photo: Gabriele Lobaccaro

Sun reflection in cities

Reference: @google - Huffington Post

Sun reflection in cities

Referanse: @google - Huffington Post

Sun reflection in cities

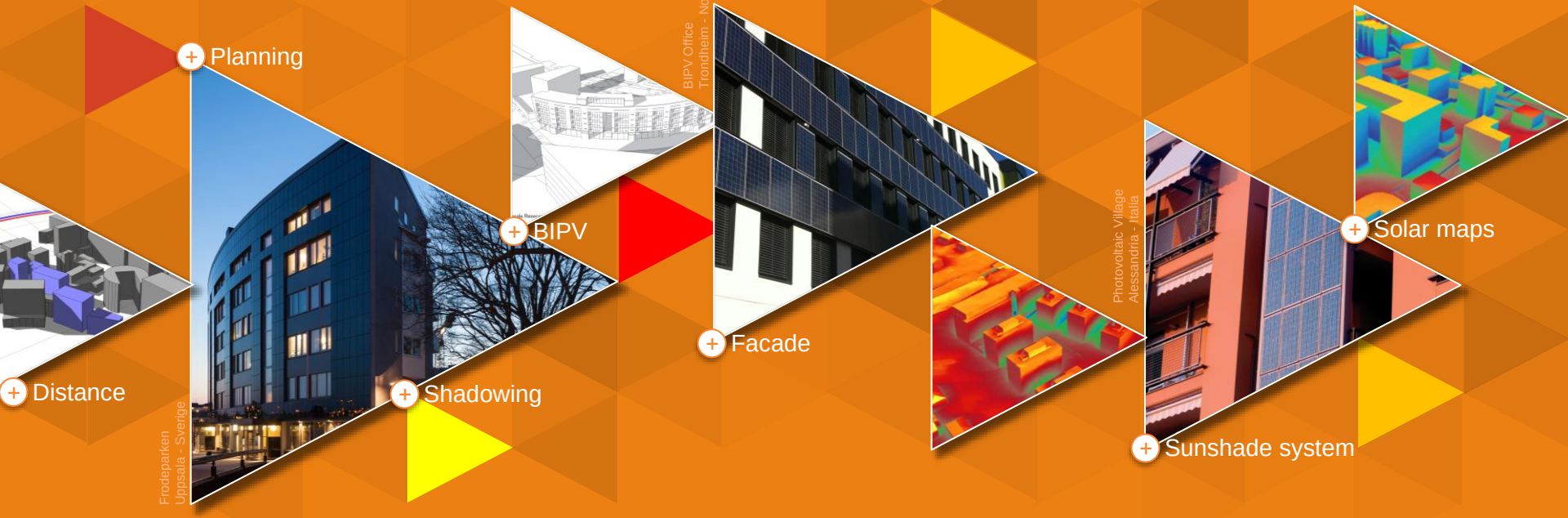
IL FUTURO DELLA CITTÀ

Pirellone bis, le pareti a specchio sciolgono le tapparelle dei palazzi

«P

Referanse: Palazzo della Regione Lombardia – Milan (Italia); Photo: Gabriele Lobaccaro

Overshadowing effect



Overshadowing effect

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

MILANO / CRONACA

IL CASO

Melchiorre Gioia, le vecchie case che non vedranno più la luce

La costruzione di due palazzi «imprigionerà» gli edifici già oscurati da tre lati

di Elisabetta Andreis

Reference: Palazzo della Regione Lombardia – Milan (Italia) – Corriere della Sera

Solar systems in the Lerkendal district

View of the area from the top- Reference: google maps og flere

Data of photovoltaic facade:

- 200 m2 South and West facades;
- 27.2 kWp, 9 strings;
- Annual production: 18 000 kWh;
- Actual production (2013): 15 000 kWh (+15%simulated)

Data of the building:

- Building area: 11 000 m2;
- Annual consumption 84 kWh/m2 - Energy class A.
- Connected to district heating and power grids.

Destination of the district and functions:

- Sports facilities,
- Commercial buildings
- Service warehouse

Solar systems in the Lerkendal district

How to avoid and prevent these situations?

View from the top of Lerkendal Studentby - Reference: http://www.adressa.no/

Analysis using dynamic simulations

1: Local solar potential (isolated scenario)

2: Local solar potential (urban scenario)

DIVA FOR RHINO
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR BUILDINGS

DiVA for Rhino
Based on Radiance ray-tracing method

DAYSIM
ADVANCED DAYLIGHT SIMULATION SOFTWARE

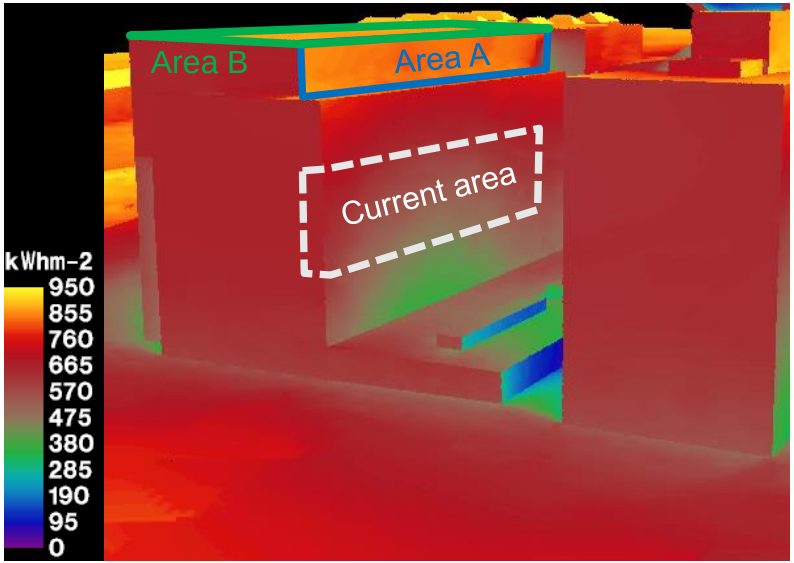
3: Energy production

PVsyst
PV simulation

Polysun
Solar thermal

Referance: Good C.S., Lobaccaro G., Hårklau S., Optimization of solar energy potential for buildings in urban areas - a Norwegian case study, Energy Procedia, Volume 58 (2014) pp 166-171

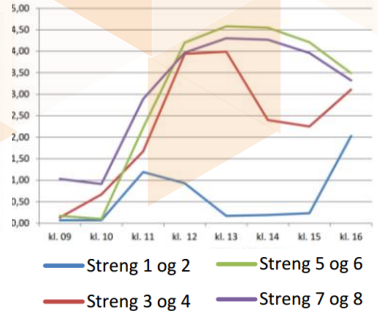
Overshadowing effect and availability on solar energy



Figur 66: 4.april 2014, kl.09:00

Figur 67: 4.april 2014, kl.10:00

Energy production [kW] – 4. April



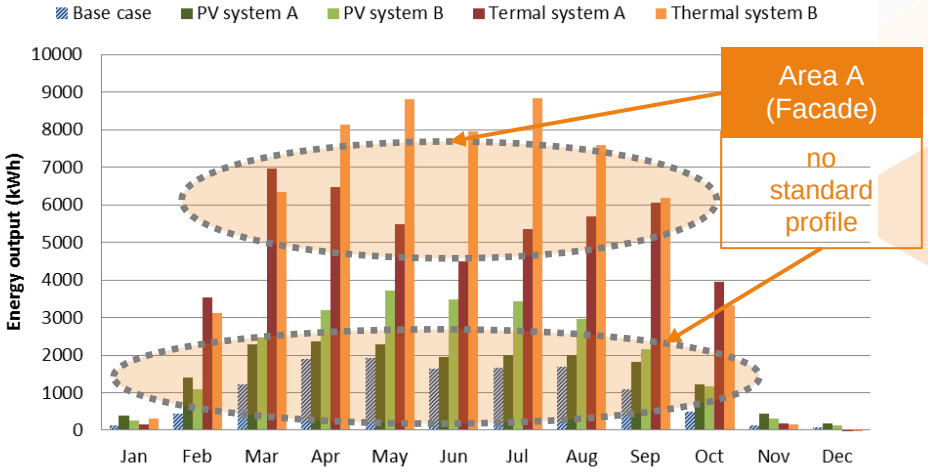
-50 % Direct irradiation (PV facade)

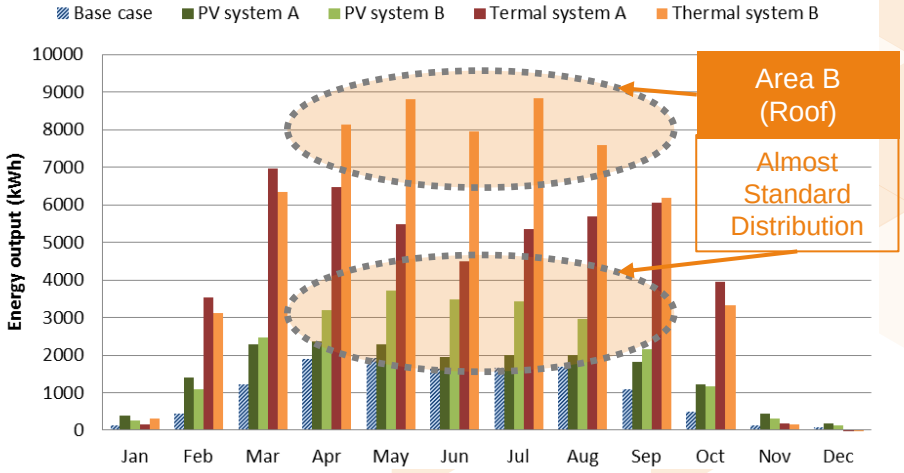
-40 % Global irradiation (PV facade)

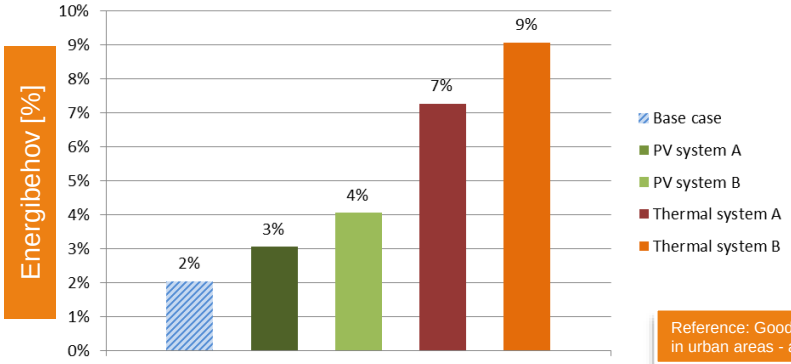
Vekselretter	Strenger	Kl.09	Kl.10	Kl.11	Kl.12	Kl.13	Kl.14	Kl.15	Kl.16
1	1 og 2	0,07	0,07	1,19	0,93	0,17	0,19	0,23	2,03
2	3 og 4	0,13	0,67	1,67	3,94	3,99	2,40	2,25	3,11
3	5 og 6	0,17	0,10	2,22	4,20	4,58	4,55	4,21	3,49
4	7 og 8	1,03	0,91	2,89	3,97	4,30	4,27	3,96	3,32

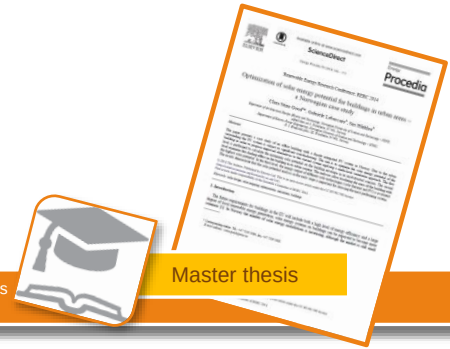
Reference: Good C.S., Lobaccaro G., Hårklau S., Optimization of solar energy potential for buildings in urban areas - a Norwegian case study, Energy Procedia, Volume 58 (2014) pp 166-171

Overshadowing effect and availability on solar energy





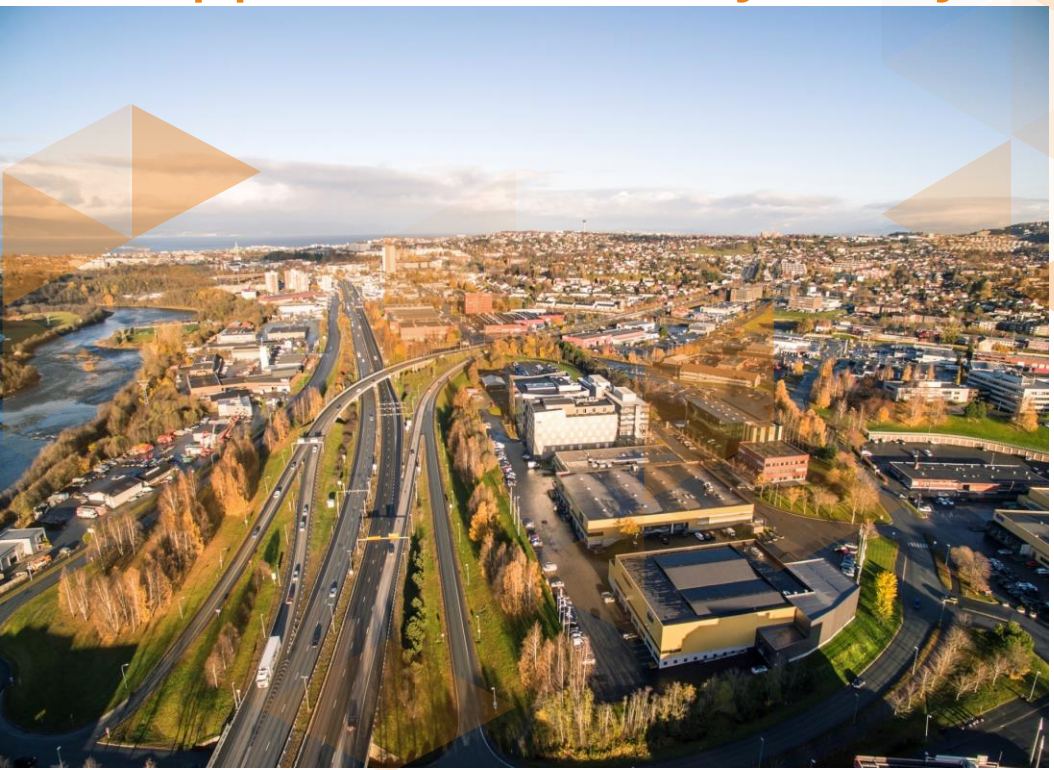




Reference: Good C.S., Lobaccaro G., Hårklau S., Optimization of solar energy potential for buildings in urban areas - a Norwegian case study, Energy Procedia, Volume 58 (2014) pp 166-171

Solar energy potential

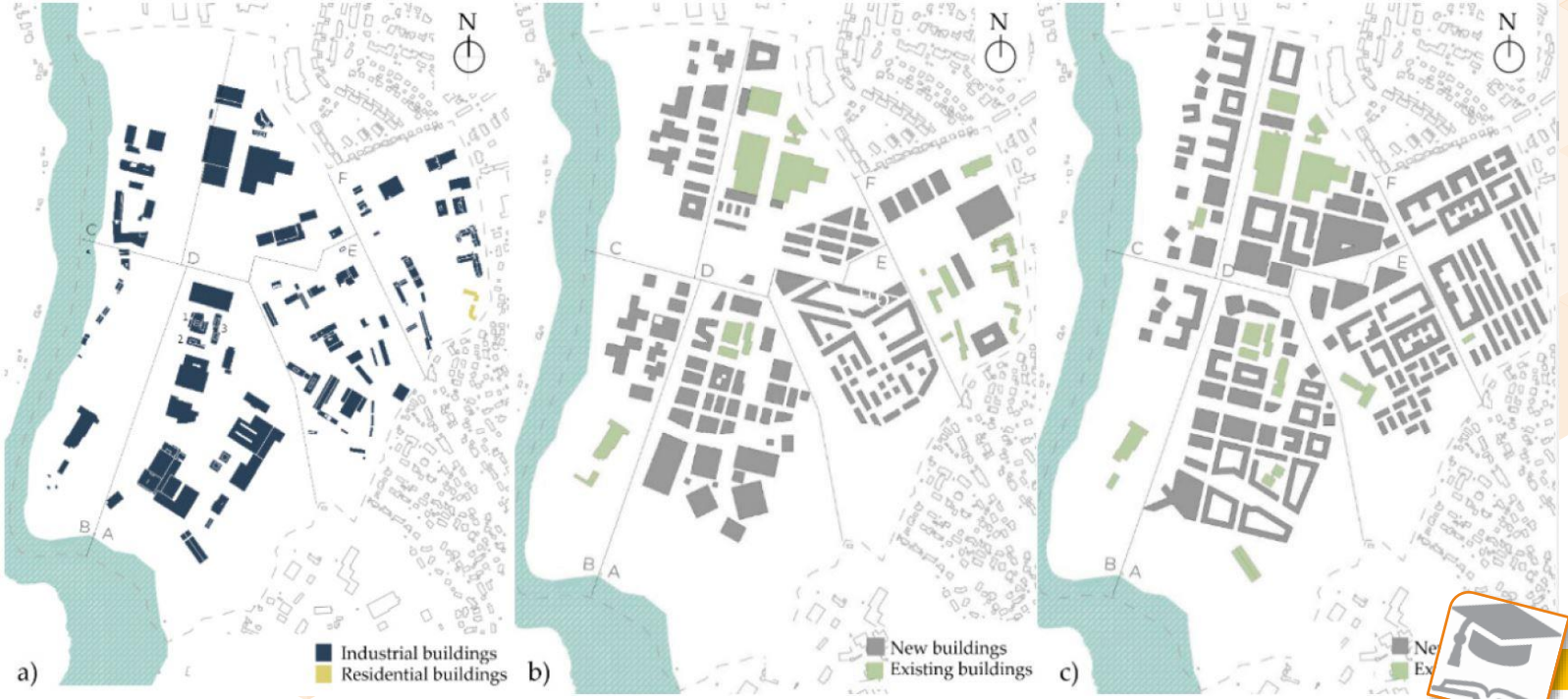
Sluppen – Feasibility study….2050?



Referanse: Trondheim Kommune

Sluppen – Feasibility study….2050?

New and existing buildings in existing situation (a) Feasibility study I (b) and II (c)

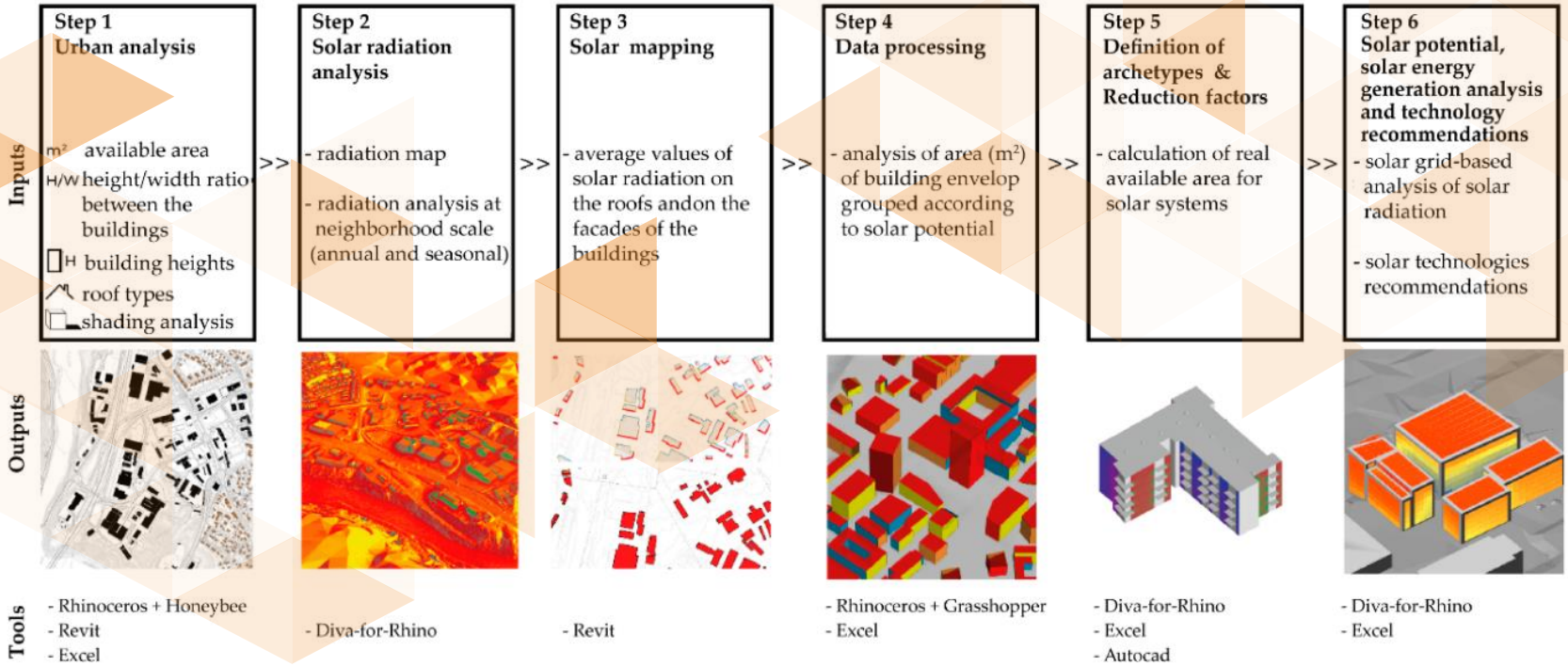


Master thesis

Reference: Lobaccaro, G.; Lisowska, M.M.; Saretta, E.; Bonomo, P.; Frontini, F. A Methodological Analysis Approach to Assess Solar Energy Potential at the Neighborhood Scale. Energies 2019, 12, 3554

Sluppen – Feasibility study….2050?

New and existing buildings in existing situation (a) Feasibility study I (b) and II (c)



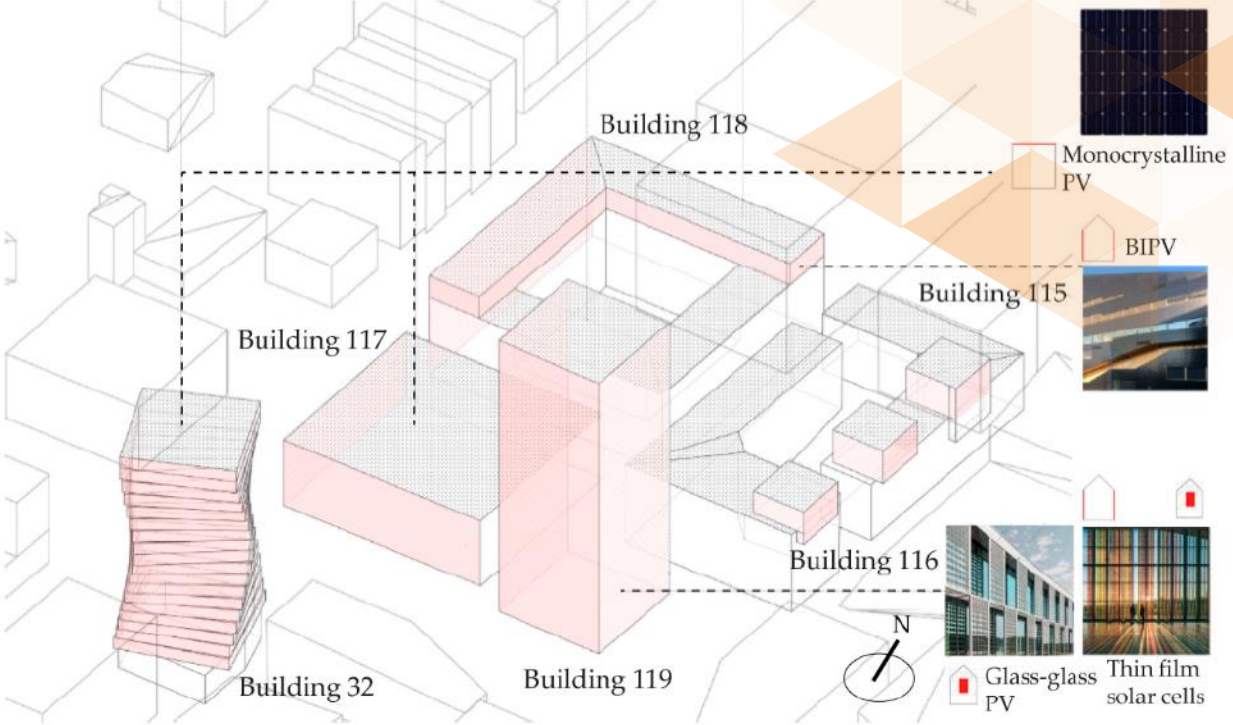
Reference: Lobaccaro, G.; Lisowska, M.M.; Saretta, E.; Bonomo, P.; Frontini, F. A Methodological Analysis Approach to Assess Solar Energy Potential at the Neighborhood Scale. Energies 2019, 12, 3554

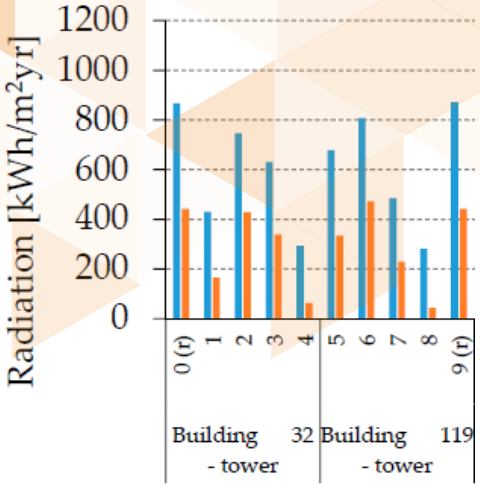
Reduction factors

Reference: Lobaccaro, G.; Lisowska, M.M.; Saretta, E.; Bonomo, P.; Frontini, F. A Methodological Analysis Approach to Assess Solar Energy Potential at the Neighborhood Scale. Energies 2019, 12, 3554

Recommendations on solar technology

Recommendations on solar technology for the critical area for the feasibility study II





Reference: Lobaccaro, G.; Lisowska, M.M.; Saretta, E.; Bonomo, P.; Frontini, F. A Methodological Analysis Approach to Assess Solar Energy Potential at the Neighborhood Scale. Energies 2019, 12, 3554

Challenges and lessons learnt

The challenges in this study are as follows:

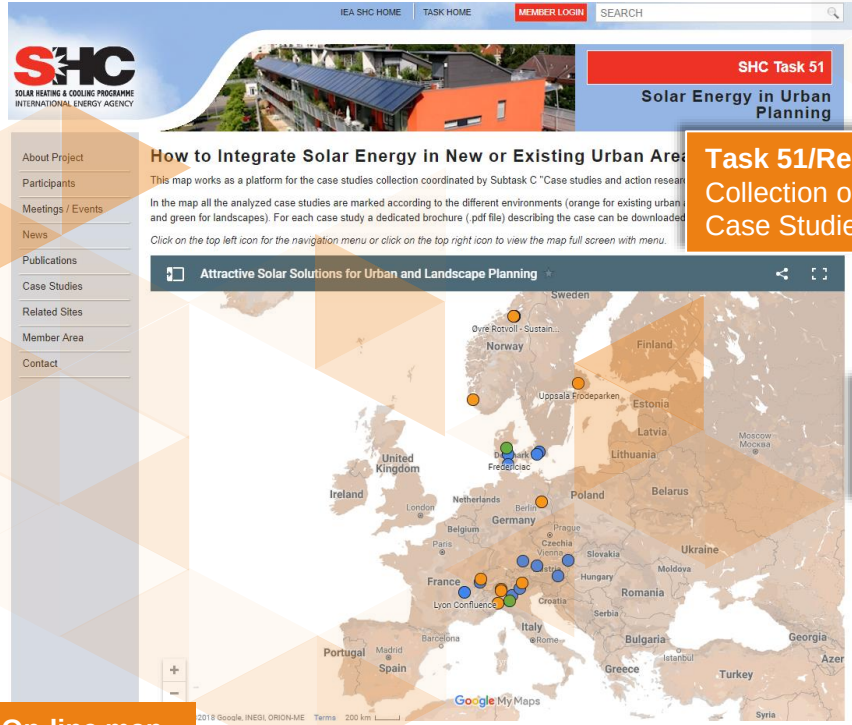
- **Support planning decision-making tool** for solar energy integration since the early design stages
- **Identify suitable building surfaces**, roofs and facades for BIPV integration.
- **Evaluate and compare the solar potential** of different project scenarios.
- **Optimize the solar energy potential** by controlling their impact on the solar availability of existing buildings.

The lessons from the developed workflow are as follows:

- **Avoiding switching between software** will probably be beneficial when it comes to simplicity of methodology.
- Use the **co-simulation approach** by connecting existing tools with pre-algorithms developed through programming languages (eg python, MATLAB Simulink, java, C ++).
- The developed **approach can be replicated** for different building and urban scenarios for multiple design proposals and geographical locations.
- The building archetypes that define the **reduction factors can** also **be replaced** by **building types that are unique to each location**.

Referanse: Lobaccaro, G.; Lisowska, M.M.; Saretta, E.; Bonomo, P.; Frontini, F. A Methodological Analysis Approach to Assess Solar Energy Potential at the Neighborhood Scale. Energies 2019, 12, 3554

International activities



On-line map

Task 51/Report C1
Collection of International Case Studies

Task 51/Report C2
National and International Comparison of Case Studies

Task 51/Report C3
Lesson Learnt from Case Studies

Reference: Lobaccaro G., Croce S., Lindkvist C., Munari Probst M.C, Scognamiglio A., Dahlberg, J., Lundgren M., Wall M., A cross-country perspective on solar energy in urban planning: lessons learned from international case studies, (2019), Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews , pp. 209-237

Thank you!

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