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**Press release**

## **THE FIRST LEED SCHOOL IN EUROPE IS IN TRENTO**

**The first school in Europe built according to the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria for sustainable building is in Riva del Garda, in Trentino.** The extension of the **Istituto Tecnico Commerciale “Floriani”** commercial school was built in conformity with a series of parameters developed in the United States by the U.S. Green Building Council and implemented in more than 100 countries worldwide, for designing, developing and operating buildings which are sustainable from an environmental, social, economic and health viewpoint. The official certification was issued earlier this week by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), which awarded the Trentino school the **highest rating score** in its category (48 points out of 48).

Out of the four possible LEED certifications (Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) the Riva school was awarded the **“Gold”** and this meant setting yet another record: it is in fact the first Italian building in absolute terms to achieve the highest certification level (there are no Platinum buildings in Italy yet).

“With each new LEED-certified building, we get one step closer to USGBC’s vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation,” said USGBC President, CEO & Founding Chair Rick Fedrizzi. “Students attending the Istituto Tecnico Commerciale ‘Floriani’ will experience first-hand the benefits of green building and will thrive in a healthier, more productive environment. The Istituto Tecnico Commerciale ‘Floriani’ efficiently uses natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which benefits not only today’s students, but generations to come.”

The President of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Mr. **Lorenzo Dellai**, stated: “This achievement is particularly significant for Trentino because it both certifies its

role as a LEED “forerunner” and confirms that we have taken the right direction, opting for a development which combines excellence in production and the distinctive environmental sensitivity of the area. We have staked on the sustainable energy-building-mobility chain, thereby enhancing the knowledge of our research centers, the innovative capability of businesses and the quality of local resources – such as wood – and this means that today we can also look more confidently at the future and at economic recovery, that we all hope will arrive soon”.

The extension of the Floriani school - commissioned by the **Autonomous Province of Trento** and accomplished by the **Costruzioni Debiasi Srl** building contractor – achieved this result also thanks to the consultancy provided by **Habitech Distretto tecnologico trentino per l’energia e l’ambiente** (Trentino Technology District for Energy and the Environment) which is a company led by CEO **Gianni Lazzari**.

**Mr. Lazzari** said: “One of the key objectives of Habitech is to transform the building market into a sustainable one. And this is a significant result because it is certified by an international organization”.

In this specific case, **Mr. Francesco Gasperi**, who is a LEED accredited professional (LEED AP), supported by **Giulia Pizzini** from Habitech and by the American **FTCH** company, assisted the building contractor and the project team and closely followed all calculation, project and site documentation activities that the LEED standard requires.

**Mr. Gasperi** explained: “The work needed for the certification was accomplished in an exemplary way by the integrated team of people from Habitech and Costruzioni Debiasi and this made it possible to achieve the maximum score in the assessment”.

**Mr. Gianni Debiasi** declared: "I would like to underline that the achievement of this excellent result gives me and my staff great satisfaction but also that the synergy resulting from effective political intuitions and the commitment of farsighted entrepreneurs indeed can lead to excellent results also at European level, despite the fact that both the area and the companies are small or medium-sized”.

Several design solutions distinguish the Riva school which features a “**green roof**”, covered with vegetation for better insulation; a **tank for rainwater collection and re-use**, used for irrigation purposes and for toilet flushing; **external paving surfaces with a high solar reflectance** to avoid the “heat island” effect; **systems to reduce water consumption**, including reduced-flow taps; **separate waste collection**

**areas** on the various floors of the building; more **green areas** at the project site; the usage of **rapidly renewable materials** and of **timber from certified forests** and a better management of **thermal comfort** in the various classrooms, thanks to individual thermostats installed in the corridor control panel, on each floor. Furthermore, the school enjoys excellent **soundproofing** in the rooms, thanks to double pane windows and to a thorough acoustic stratigraphic analysis of the walls.

Special attention was devoted to the management of the building site during the construction works: the **disposal of construction materials at specific recycling centers** has been guaranteed and **all systems have been subjected to a final inspection** on the part of the Commissioning Authority, a technical professional whose control is a guarantee for the owner. Furthermore, the school building itself will serve as a tool to teach **good practices in the field of sustainable building**.

In addition to the Floriani school, there are other schools which at present are registered with the USGBC: the Romarzollo school in Arco, the Mezzolombardo school, whose construction is nearing completion, and the schools in Volano and Lodrone di Storo.

For further information, please visit:

- [www.dftn.it](http://www.dftn.it)
- [www.gbcitalia.org](http://www.gbcitalia.org)
- **Habitech - Distretto tecnologico trentino per l'energia e l'ambiente** (Trentino Technology District for Energy and the Environment)

More than 300 businesses, research entities and public agencies, for a total of 8,000 people and a generated business volume of approx. 1 billion Euros: this is **Habitech, Distretto Tecnologico Trentino per l'Energia e l'Ambiente** (Trentino Technology District for Energy and the Environment), established in August 2006 in Rovereto and officially recognized by the Italian Ministry for University and Research.

Building, energy and mobility are the key sectors of activity for Habitech, which combines new and well-established skills and knowledge with the objective to turn environmental protection into a strategic lever, also for purposes of local economic development.

The company, led by CEO **Gianni Lazzari** and presided over by **Paolo Gurisatti**, works as a know-how integrator for key stakeholders in local development,

i.e. universities, research laboratories, businesses and institutions – with the aim to experiment new technology combinations capable of innovating the way we inhabit and plan our landscape and territory.

Habitech - Distretto Tecnologico Trentino (Trentino Technology District) favors cooperation between privates, public institutions and agencies and promotes the development of the “building-energy-mobility” chain in such a way as to permit Trentino as a whole to offer the (local, national and international) market certified solutions which keep abreast of the best qualified customer segments.

The first achievement for Habitech - Distretto Tecnologico Trentino (Trentino Technology District) in the building sector has been to promote the creation of **Green Building Council Italia (GBC Italia)** for the LEED environmental sustainability certification of buildings. GBC Italia, established at the beginning of 2008 in Trentino, is the organisation which, like its corresponding American body (USGBC), is transforming the building market, at national level, through the introduction of the **LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system**. These criteria have been developed in the United States and are being implemented in more than 100 countries worldwide, for designing, building and operating buildings which are sustainable from an environmental, social, economic and health viewpoint. More than 230 public authorities, research centers and enterprises from all over Italy have become members of this non-profit organisation, which is based on voluntary participation by members and which belongs to the World GBC.

To date, more than 50 LEED projects have been proposed by Italian entities and registered for certification and the District has already started offering architects, designers and companies the first support services for achieving the LEED certification. New LEED APs have been accredited thanks to the education program supported by the District: these specialized professionals have the task to lead the project team in charge of ensuring that each building meets the LEED parameters.