



WE-Qualify: Improve Skills and Qualifications in the Building Workforce in Cyprus



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe
Programme of the European Union





The WE-Qualify project

The **WE-Qualify** project «**Improve Skills and Qualifications in the Building Workforce in Cyprus**» is an **EU co-funded project** through the «Intelligent Energy Europe» programme under the **European initiative «Build Up Skills»**. The initiative aims in **promoting the continuing vocational education and training of workers in technical occupations in the Construction sector**, as well as other relevant sectors related with the installation and maintenance of energy saving and renewable energy systems in buildings. The ultimate aim is for these individuals to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude in order to facilitate meeting the energy efficiency targets for buildings by 2020.

The main aim of the WE-Qualify project is to assist the Construction sector in Cyprus to overcome the skills gap of the workforce relating to the construction of energy efficient buildings. The first step towards achieving this goal is the development of the appropriate training material, including both theoretical and practical training of the trainees in conjunction with the training of trainers.

The project commenced on 1/11/2013 and is expected to be completed in 36 months. This is the second newsletter of the project, which presents an overview of the activities and progress made so far.



Progress of activities – Preparation of training material

Progress has been made on the implementation of the pilot training programmes for the **3 skills** covered by the project:

- **Placement of thermal insulation**
- **Installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades**
- **Installation and maintenance of biomass heating systems**

The training programmes for the three skills, which will be certified by an independent certification body, will be implemented at the specially adapted workshops of the **Cyprus Productivity Centre** (CPC) at the premises of the ex HTI (Higher Technical Institute) and are expected to commence in **March 2015**. Each training programme includes both a **theoretical and a practical part**, including **printed lecture notes** for each trainee, **theoretical exercises as well as practical, hands-on training in the workshops**.

The detailed technical manuals for the trainees and the trainers, which have been compiled following a comprehensive review of the relevant existing European programmes and initiatives as well as technical manuals or training programmes by local or international bodies, have been completed and are already available on the WE-Qualify project website.

The application forms are available since January 2015 and the participants, who will be selected based on criteria set by the consortium, will participate in the programmes at no cost.

The participants who will successfully complete the training programmes will be awarded the WE-Qualify certification mark and their names per skill will be included in a publicly available catalogue on the project's website.

More information about the training programmes and the application forms are available on the project's website (www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify/) and on the CPC's website (www.mlsi.gov.cy/kepa).



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Meetings - Workshops

Participation in the Build-Up Skills European Exchange Meeting

On November 12th 2014, a representative of the Cyprus Energy Agency (consortium coordinator), participated in a **European exchange event**, which took place in Brussels and was organised by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME).

Successful examples and best practices from the implementation of similar projects in other European countries were presented during the meeting, while roundtable discussions were held that dealt with issues such as recognition of vocational training and incentives to participate in the training programmes, innovative training methods and financing of training programmes.

http://managenergy.net/networking_meetings/1908



3rd meeting of the We-Qualify project

On November 17th 2014, the 3rd meeting of the project took place at the premises of the Cyprus Energy Agency in Nicosia.

During the meeting, the progress of the project and the deliverables per work package completed so far, were presented in detail and the forthcoming commitments and deliverables were discussed. In addition, a round table discussion was held concerning the **selection criteria for the trainers** for the theoretical and practical part of the programmes and the issue of their relevant experience, which was followed by a discussion on the **selection criteria for the trainees**. Finally, the consortium deliberated on the available facilities where the pilot programmes will take place.



Meeting with the Director of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education

On January 9th 2015, a meeting was held between the representatives of the WE-Qualify consortium and Mr. Elias Margadis, the **Director of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture**.

During the meeting, the project and its objectives were presented and **several ways to utilize the project's outcomes** by the Secondary Technical and Vocational Education were discussed with special focus on the manuals for the trainees developed by the consortium for the training programmes.

The delegation thanked Mr. Margadis for his keen interest and pledged to keep him informed on the development of the project.



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WE-Qualify project partners

	Cyprus Energy Agency (coordinator)	www.cea.org.cy
	Cyprus Productivity Centre	www.mlsi.gov.cy/kepa
	Cyprus Organization for Standardization	www.cys.org.cy
	Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus	www.anad.org.cy
	Technical Chamber of Cyprus	www.etek.org.cy
	Cyprus Institute of Energy	www.cie.org.cy



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