



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 contribute towards 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 skill gap of the workforce relating to the construction of energy efficient buildings**. In that direction, pilot training programmes for technical installers are organised for the following subjects:

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

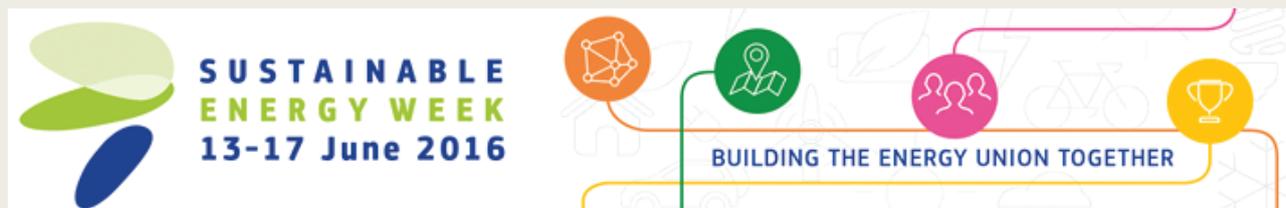
This is the **fourth newsletter** of the project, which presents an overview of the activities and progress made so far.



European distinction of the WE-Qualify project

Between 200 European applicants, **the WE-Qualify project has been selected in the 9 best and most successful European projects of the year** which contribute to the promotion of clean, secure and efficient energy in Europe. Three awards, one for each category (Businesses, Public Sector, Consumers) will be awarded by a high level jury while a fourth award will be awarded to the winner of a public online voting poll for the Citizens' Award category. The voting ends on the 5th June 2016 and the winners will be announced on the 16th June 2016 at a special awards ceremony which will take place in Brussels in the framework of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW).

More: <http://eusew.eu/about-awards-competition>



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





Progress of Activities

Implementation of training programmes

So far, **three training programmes have been completed, one programme is being implemented and one programme is scheduled** to commence in September 2016. More specifically for each subject:

Placement of thermal insulation

- The pilot training programme, with a total duration of 30 hours, was implemented during the period 17/3-30/4/2015 and was successfully completed by 21 participants.
- The second training programme, with a total duration of 33 hours, due to a revised content and an extended duration of the practical part, was implemented during the period 27/10-17/12/2015 and was successfully completed by 19 participants.
- The third training programme, with a total duration of 33 hours, commenced on 12/4/2016 and is expected to be completed by 1/6/2016 with the participation of 28 participants.



Installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades

- The pilot training programme, with a total duration of 32 hours, was implemented during the period 19/5-30/6/2015 and was successfully completed by 7 participants. No new programmes are scheduled due to the limited interest.



Installation and maintenance of biomass heating systems

- The pilot training programme will be implemented at the facilities of the Cyprus Productivity Centre - CPC (theoretical part) and the Agriculture Research Institute (practical part) and is expected to commence in September 2016. The total duration of the programme is 40 hours, out of which 31 hours are allocated to the theoretical part and 9 hours to hands-on practical training. It is noted that the programme has been submitted to the Energy Service for evaluation and approval.



Lists of the certified installers per subject have been published on the project's website (www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify/) while more information on the training programmes and the application forms are available in the project's website and in the CPC's website (www.mlsi.gov.cy/kepa).





Meetings - Workshops

Meeting to improve the developed training material

On the 15th January 2016, a **meeting took place at the premises of the Cyprus Productivity Centre between the partners of the project and experts from enterprises / organisations of the Construction sector**, with the aim to exchange views to improve the training material developed during the project. The training material consists of three training manuals, one for each skill.

During the meeting, the partners presented the project's goals, the progress of activities, the results up to date as well as the training manuals for the three skills. The participants were shown the specially adapted workshops where the training programmes take place.



Participation in the Build-Up Skills European Exchange Meeting

On the 18th and 19th of January 2016, representatives of the Cyprus Energy Agency (project coordinator) and of the Cyprus Productivity Centre, participated in the **7th EU Exchange Activity meeting** which took place in Brussels and was organised by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) in the framework of the Build Up Skills initiative. The two day meeting was attended by 74 persons representing 27 European member states.

Successful examples and best practices from the implementation of similar projects in other European countries were presented during the meeting. The participants were divided in groups where they discussed and exchanged views on issues such as sustainability of projects after their completion, mutual recognition of skills and competences in all EU member states, innovative training methods for installers as well as incentives to participate in the training programmes.

More: <http://www.buildupskills.eu/content/7th-eu-exchange-meeting-brussels-18-19-january-2016>





Meetings - Workshops

Consortium meeting with Project Officer

A meeting was held on the 22nd February 2016 in Nicosia between the partners of the **WE-Qualify consortium** and the **Project Officer from the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)**.

During the meeting the progress of the project was discussed while future actions and goals were set until the completion of the project. The Project Officer was shown the specially adapted workshops of the Cyprus Productivity Centre where the training programmes for the placement of thermal insulation and installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades take place.



Participation in the Conference «10 Years of Energy Efficiency Certificates»

In the framework of the European project **Qualicheck**, the Cyprus Institute organised on the 7th March 2016 a one day conference entitled «10 Years of Energy Efficiency Certificates». The project aims to define the actions for the conformity control of the actual energy efficiency characteristics of new and existing buildings with what is stated on the Energy Efficiency Certificates as well as to check the quality of the interventions implemented on them.

The Cyprus Energy Agency attended the conference on behalf of the **WE-Qualify consortium** and presented the training programmes implemented in the framework of the Project which aim to **upgrade the skills and expertise of workers in technical occupations** in Cyprus for the construction of energy efficient buildings.





WE-Qualify project partners

	<p>Cyprus Energy Agency (coordinator)</p>	<p>www.cea.org.cy</p>
	<p>Cyprus Productivity Centre</p>	<p>www.mlsi.gov.cy/kepa</p>
	<p>Cyprus Organization for Standardization</p>	<p>www.cys.org.cy</p>
	<p>Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus</p>	<p>www.anad.org.cy</p>
	<p>Technical Chamber of Cyprus</p>	<p>www.etek.org.cy</p>
	<p>Energy Service, Ministry of Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism</p>	<p>www.mcit.gov.cy</p>



Contact Us

For more information please contact the project coordinator

Cyprus Energy Agency
Lefkonos 10-12, 1011 Nicosia
Tel. +357-22667716, 22667726
Fax +357-22667736
Email: anthi.charalambous@cea.org.cy
Web: www.cea.org.cy

Project website: www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify/

Legal disclaimer

The sole responsibility for the content of this newsletter lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



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

