



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

- Placement of thermal insulation (2 applications, 25 person each)
- Installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades (2 applications, 25 person each)
- Installation and maintenance of biomass heating systems (1 application, 25 persons)

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



Progress of activities

Implementation of the first training programmes

The **first two pilot training programmes** for the Placement of thermal insulation and the Installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades **have been successfully completed**.

The **programme for the Placement of thermal insulation**, with a total duration of 30 hours, was implemented during the period 17/3-30/4/2015 and certificates were awarded to the 21 participants which successfully completed the programme. Their names were published on a publicly available catalogue on the project's website http://www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify/.



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Progress of activities

Similarly, **the programme for the Installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades**, with a total duration of 30 hours, was implemented during the period 19/5- 30/6/2015 and the certificates will be awarded shortly to the successful participants.

The training programmes were implemented at the specially adapted workshops of the **Cyprus Productivity Centre (CPC)** at the premises of the ex HTI (Higher Technical Institute) and included both a **theoretical and a practical part**. As part of the programme, **theoretical exercises** as well as **practical, hands-on training in the workshops were carried out and printed lectures notes** were provided to each trainee.



Organisation of the next round of training programmes

The second round of training programmes is expected to begin in October 2015 with the programme «Placement of thermal insulation». The application forms are already available and the prospective participants, who will be selected based on criteria set by the consortium, will participate in the programmes at no cost.

The training programme for the **Installation and maintenance of Biomass heating systems** is expected to commence in November 2015. 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. The application forms for the programme are available from September 2015.

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).





Meetings - Workshops

1st WE-Qualify Open Workshop

The 1st Open Workshop of the WE-Qualify project entitled «Skills Upgrading for installers related to energy efficiency of buildings and renewable energy sources» took place on 10/6/2015 and was included in the Sustainable Energy Week 2015 (EUSEW 2015) programme of activities.

At the Workshop, which was attended by more than 50 persons, the initial results of the WE-Qualify project were presented and discussed along with the current situation and future direction of the qualification framework for technical occupations in Cyprus and the need to upgrade and certify the qualifications and skills of technicians in the Construction sector.

The discussion led to the conclusions that the framework and systems for the certification of qualifications are promoted by all the involved stakeholders and that there is the good will for cooperation between all the actors involved to provide the appropriate reference framework for the training of technicians for energy efficient buildings.

The presentations from the workshop are available on the WE-Qualify project website http://www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify.





Meetings - Workshops

BUILD UP Skills Conference: Ensuring a qualified building workforce to reach the EU energy and climate targets

A conference, organised by EASME (Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) as part of the Sustainable Energy Week 2015, was held on June 17th 2015 in Brussels to **present selected results from the second phase of the Build Up Skills initiative** that aims to develop new and/or upgrade existing training schemes for technicians in the Construction sector. The aim of the conference was to present to the main stakeholders the best practices that have emerged from the implementation of the programme in various European countries so that they can utilise the available material and experience as well as potentially replicate these projects at national/regional level.

More information at: http://www.eusew.eu/component/see_eventview/?view=see_eventdetail&mapType=htmlpc&eventid=4423



GREENET - Euro Network Supporting Innovation for Green Jobs

A **conference** was held on June 29th 2015 in Limassol in the framework of the **project “GREENET: Euro network supporting innovation for green jobs”** which is co-funded by the European Union under the PROGRESS programme. At the conference, which was attended by project partners from 5 European countries, Ms Anthi Charalambous, coordinator of the WE-Qualify project, presented the project’s goals and initial results and highlighted the pressing need to further educate and train technicians in the Construction sector to achieve the energy efficiency targets for buildings by 2020.

Standard for bodies operating certification of persons - CYS EN ISO 17024:2012

The standard CYS EN ISO 17024:2012 was adopted from the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS) in August 2012 and consists of the general requirements for bodies operating certification of persons. Furthermore, the standard includes the development and maintenance of a certification scheme for persons. CYS EN ISO 17024:2012 has been developed with the objective of achieving and promoting a global accepted benchmark for organisations operating certification of persons.

The certification of persons provides a high level of assurance that the certified person meets the requirements of the certification scheme and that the certification body operates in a consistent, comparable and reliable manner.





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	www.anad.org.cy
	Technical Chamber of Cyprus	www.etek.org.cy
	Energy Service, Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism	www.mcit.gov.cy



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