



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 skills 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 thermopanels and exterior sunshades
- Installation and maintenance of biomass heating systems

This is the **fifth and final newsletter** of the project which presents an overview of its activities and outcomes.



European distinction of the WE-Qualify project

Among 200 European applicants, **the WE-Qualify project has been selected in the 3 best and most successful applicants** of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2016 awards in the «Public sector» category. The awards recognize **outstanding innovation in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources** of European projects that contribute to the promotion of clean, safe and efficient energy in Europe.

The winners were announced by the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Mr. Miguel Arias Cañete, during the awards ceremony which took place on the 14th June 2016 in Brussels, in the framework of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2016.

The WE-Qualify project was not voted first in its category but reached the highest mantle of this European distinction and received very positive reviews.

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



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Progress of Activities

So far **four training programmes have been completed and one programme is being implemented.** More specifically:

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, was implemented during the period 12/4-1/6/2016 and was successfully completed by 29 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 were implemented due to the limited interest.

Installation and maintenance of biomass heating systems

- The pilot training programme is currently being implemented at the facilities of the Cyprus Productivity Centre - CPC (theoretical part) and the Agriculture Research Institute (practical part). The programme commenced on the 21st September 2016 and is expected to be completed by the 27th October 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 approved by the Energy Service for the purpose of preparing candidates for registration to the Small Scale Biomass Heating System Installers Registry.

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

2nd Open Workshop

The WE-Qualify consortium is organising on the 31st October 2016 the final open workshop for the project entitled «**Skills upgrading for installers related to energy efficiency of buildings and renewable energy sources**» in the framework of the EU Build Up Skills initiative.

During the meeting the final results from the implementation of the project will be presented and certificates will be awarded to the participants that successfully completed the training programmes organised by the consortium.

More: http://www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify

Round table discussion

A **round table discussion** organised by the WE-Qualify consortium was held on the 22nd June 2016 entitled «**Certification of professionals in the Energy and Construction sectors of Cyprus**» in the framework of the Build Up Skills initiative and the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2016.

At the discussion, which **was attended by stakeholders and organisations of the public and private sector**, the **project outcomes as well as the current state and future direction of the certification framework for technical occupations related to the Construction sector** in Cyprus were presented and discussed.

The outcome of the discussion was that **education, lifelong learning and certification** of the skills of workers are the **guarantee of quality assurance** in the construction and renovation of buildings and are expected to contribute significantly in the achievement of the goal for buildings with nearly zero energy consumption by 2020. The discussion also highlighted the trend of the promotion of skills certification systems at national and European level and stressed the need for cooperation of all stakeholders in order to provide the appropriate reference framework for the training and certification of craftsmen for energy efficient buildings.

The workshop presentations are available on the project's website: http://www.cea.org.cy/we_qualify





Meetings - Workshops

Participation in the «Passive House Basics» Workshop

The Cyprus Energy Agency, as **coordinator of the WE-Qualify project**, participated in the **workshop «Passive House Basics»** held at the Educational Cultural Center of ETEK on the 9th July 2016 and **presented the project and its objectives**. The object of the conference was to present standards for Passive and Nearly Zero Energy Consumption Buildings as well as best practices and technical requirements.

More: <http://www.architecture.org.cy/index.php/news/ekdiloseis/item/211-passive-house-basics>



Participation in the webinar «Certification schemes for installers»

The Cyprus Energy Agency, as coordinator **of the WE-Qualify project**, participated on the 16th September 2016 in the **webinar «Certification schemes for installers»** organised in the framework of the EU co-financed project Qualicheck and presented the project and its objectives.

The webinar presented national examples of how to train and certify installers in Austria, Cyprus and Romania and discussed issues such as the cost of certification, market acceptance and related benefits.

More: <http://qualicheck-platform.eu/2016/06/webinar-certification-schemes-for-installers>

Participation in the Build-Up Skills European Exchange Meeting

On the 2nd and 3rd of June 2016, a representative from the Cyprus Energy Agency (project coordinator) participated in the **8th EU Exchange Activity meeting** which took place in Budapest and was organised by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) in the framework of the Build Up Skills initiative.

During the meeting, successful examples from the implementation of similar projects in other European countries were presented and 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 market acceptance were discussed.

More: <http://www.buildupskills.eu/content/8th-eu-exchange-meeting-budapest-2-3-june-2016>



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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
	Energy Service, Ministry of Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism	www.mcit.gov.cy



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: savvas.vlachos@cea.org.cy
Web: www.cea.org.cy

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

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