



## **WE-Qualify:** Improving Skills and Qualifications for the Building Workforce in Cyprus



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





# Project WE-Qualify

The project WE-Qualify «Improve Skills and Qualifications in the Building Workforce in Cyprus» is a co-funded project through the «Intelligent Energy Europe» program and falls under the European initiative «Build Up Skills». This initiative aims in continuing the professional education and training of workers in technical occupations, in construction as well as related sectors for the installation and maintenance of energy saving and renewable energy systems in buildings. The ultimate objective is for the individuals to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude towards meeting the targets of energy efficiency for buildings by 2020.

According to the European Directive on Energy Performance for Buildings, all Member States are invited to improve the energy performance of buildings, both in existing and newly constructed. The provision that states that by 2020 all newly constructed buildings must be nearly zero energy also provides a major challenge.

The skills of the workforce in the Building sector, installation of energy saving systems and renewable energy in buildings play a crucial role in achieving these goals. According to the «Roadmap» developed in the first phase of the initiative «Build Up Skills» in Cyprus, it was estimated that at least 4,500 workers/installers need to develop green competences, in 13 different skills by 2020.

The implementation of the consortium of the WE-Qualify project, taking into account the 'Roadmap', moves on integrated designs and pilot training courses for installing conventional insulation / thermo-plaster and external thermal insulation systems, positioning thermopanels and sun protection systems as well as the installation and maintenance of biomass heating systems.

The main objective of the WE-Qualify project is to help the construction sector in Cyprus to overcome the skill gap barrier in the workforce with regard to the construction of energy efficient buildings. The first step towards this goal is the development of appropriate training material, giving equal weight on both theoretical and practical training of trainees along with the training of the trainers.



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# Objectives of WE-Qualify

The specific objectives of the WE-Qualify project are summarised as follows:

- To set the basis for the adoption of a national accepted qualification scheme, which will define high quality standards on the construction of energy efficient buildings.
- To develop a suitable and easily adaptable training material and tools, that can provide effective support to the workforce and the key stakeholders at national level.
- To inform regarding the good practices and the main “key parameters” required for effective installations on buildings.
- To establish a team of skilled and qualified blue-collar workers, in order to meet the market needs in this area.
- To encourage a significant number of workers in enhancing their professional skills.
- To inform the project-related groups (architects, engineers, land developers) and the general public about the specific qualification system.



# Outputs

The action plan of the WE-Qualify project includes:

- Implementation of technical training programs for the following skills:
  - Skill 1: Placement of thermal insulation
  - Skill 2: Installation of thermopanes and exterior sunshades
  - Skill 3: Installation and maintenance of Biomass heating systems
- Development of appropriate material and practical training tools for the blue-collar workers/installers and trainers.
- Creation of an electronic platform with all the necessary technical information.
- 5 pilot training courses for blue-collar workers/installers (125 people to be trained and target 100 people to be qualified).
- 3 pilot training courses for trainers.



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# WE-Qualify project partners

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



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