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New Skills for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings

"The best technology is only as good as the skilled professionals who can design, install and operate it,"

"And with a huge growth in new technologies, we will need a huge growth in skills and skilled specialists in this sector"

The NS4nZEBs project aims to tackle existing mismatches between the skills currently existing and the ones increasingly in demand to increase the number of skilled building professionals in the field of photovoltaic, smart electrical systems, heat pumps and hydrogen technologies in buildings, at all levels of the building design, operation and maintenance. This will lead to an increased application of new energy efficient and technologies connected to RES (Renewable Energy Systens) for the successful uptake of (nearly) zero energy buildings.

One of the first activities has been the development of an international survey and the publication of a transnational report about the most needed skills for the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings, the source of information preferred by professionals and companies, the existing gaps in the different countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Spain, and Ukraine) participating in the project.

The respondents highlighted an increasing need for skilled workers, the importance of information about the best available technologies, the need for recognized certifications as well as for a major awareness of what is at stake.

In the past months the international partners worked together on the analysis of curricula for all types of professionals involved in the construction value chain (architects, engineers, installers, construction value chain entrepreneurs, workers and employees).

Under the NS4ZEBs project we have been developing 9 curricula (for electricians, electrical engineers, HVAC technicians, HVAC engineers, architects and trainers) to best tackle the identified skill gaps, i.e. areas of competences in need of improvement, namely:

- ***Soft skills***
- ***Digital skills***
- ***Entrepreneurship competence***
- ***EU regulations concerning nZEB (theoretical and practical frameworks)***
- ***Latest developments in RES systems in buildings.***

The training will support the implementation of the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, aiming to achieve a fully decarbonised building stock by 2050, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive contributes directly to the EU's energy and climate goals.

The training modules are ready, and the partners will organise in all participating countries a specific training scheme in Autumn, after a combined train-the-trainers course scheduled for September.

In April 2025 we had a partnership meeting in Barcelona (Spain), where the partners could meet dr.Angelino, officer of CINEA, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, responsible for the management of the Life programme, EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action.

He stressed the importance of NS4nZEBs project in the framework of the European Union Skills Strategy as well of the Life programme as a pillar for the increase of energy efficiency in Europe.

For further information, visit our website: www.ns4zebs.com.

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