NEW SKILLS FOR NEARLY ZERO ENERGY BUILDINGS

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 technologies connected to RES (Renewable Energy Systems) for the successful uptake of (nearly) zero energy buildings.
This objective will be achieved through the development of new and the enhancement of existing training methods, curricula, and qualification courses for all categories of professionals involved in the building value chain.

BACKGROUND

New professional skills will support the wider deployment and scaling-up of energy-efficient renewable energy technologies, stimulate investment in energy independence policies, and promote the use of local renewable energy sources in buildings.
The LIFE NS4nZEBs project helps in the implementation of the EU climate and energy policies by enhancing the skills and competencies of professionals engaged in the implementation of Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs).

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

We are pleased to share the latest updates on our ongoing NS4nZEBs project:

1. Respondents highlighted a growing demand for skilled workers, the importance of access to information on best available technologies, the need for recognized certifications, and a higher level of awareness of the challenges at stake.
2. Over the past months, international partners have jointly analysed existing curricula covering all professional profiles across the construction value chain, including architects, engineers, installers, workers, and employees.
3. Within the NS4ZEBs project, 9 targeted curricula have been successfully developed for electricians, electrical engineers, HVAC technicians, HVAC engineers, architects, and trainers.

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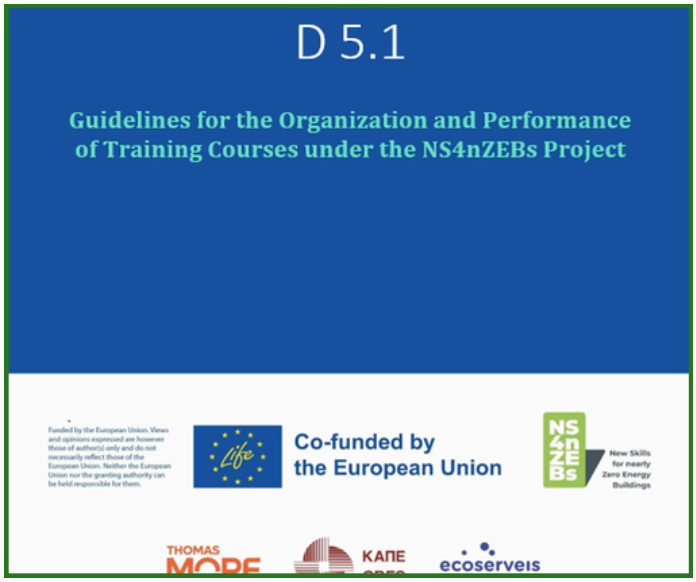
What has happened so far?

The **5th** Partner Meeting of the **NS4nZEBs** project was held in **Athens, Greece,** on September 24-25, 2025. The meeting was organized by **CRES** and brought together representatives from all consortium partners.
Key discussions focused on project progress updates, an overview of the Train the Trainers Pilot Seminar, and the next steps for the online networking platform. In addition, partners addressed dissemination and impact strategies as well as follow-up activities and planned deliverables for 2026.

In close cooperation with project partners, the **Guidelines for the Organization and Delivery of Training Courses under the NS4nZEBs Project** were developed.
The document defines the core principles, structure, and methodological approaches for the planning and implementation of training programmes aimed at building modern competencies in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy.



Athens, Greece *September 2025*

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All consortium partners presented their materials for the online platform, followed by the implementation of a Train-the-Trainer pilot course and the organization of platform testing, both on-site and online.
The event provided an opportunity to assess the quality of the developed training materials, collect feedback from course trainers, and identify areas for further improvement of the learning process.

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Training Courses under the NS4nZEBs Project

The training courses aim to qualify and/or upskill so as to make nZEB-ready the specialists in the 5 main courses developed to meet the needs of the 9 professional profiles: architects (upskills), HVAC engineers (new skills and upskills), electrical engineers (new skills and upskills), HVAC technicians (new skills and upskills), installers & electricians (new skills and upskills). In the first round of national training courses, 360 trainees will be trained. The project also aims to achieve sustainability by continuing to provide the developed courses and regularly updating the training content.

All materials have been developed in accordance with the European requirements and are available in digital format on a dedicated online platform.

In the Project NS4nZEBs, different digital technologies, such as videos, screencasts, interactive presentations, and quizzes, as well as 'serious games' are integrated. Additionally, to realize the communication and interaction between trainees and the trainers, Zoom or Google Classroom are used.

The train-the-trainer model has built a pool of qualified experts across partner countries.
Although this training is still going on, so far over 35 trainers have completed the course, and by mid-February, all 53 registered trainers will be ready to facilitate the national training courses.

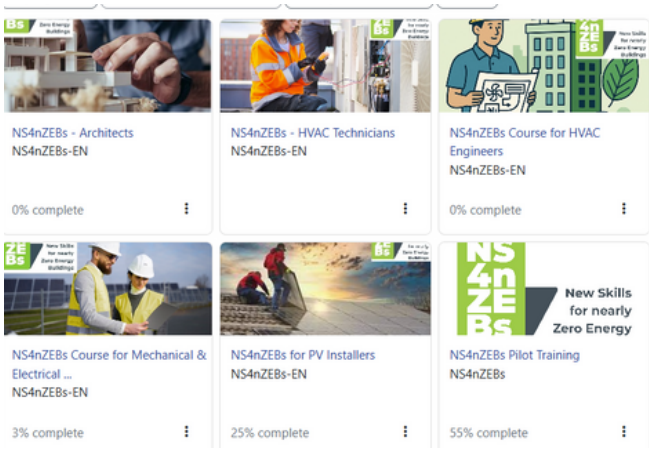
What next?

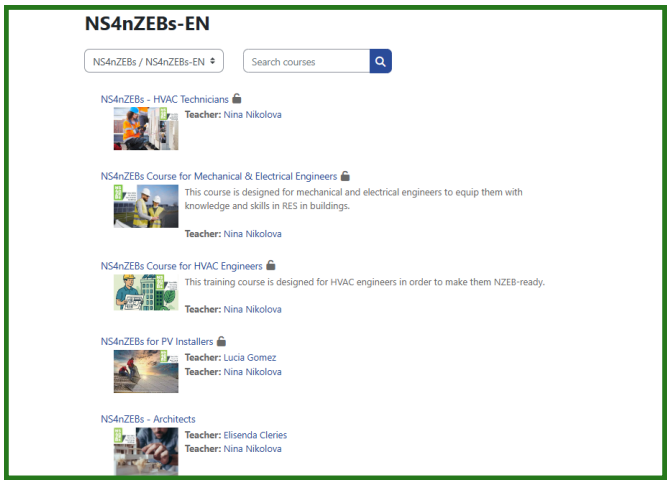
- The materials for the national courses are ready and uploaded in English.
- In March, we hope to announce the start of the national courses in 6 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Spain, Ukraine)

Admission criteria for trainees:

- All trainees should have certified qualifications in the respective field.
- The online learning platform offers flexibility and inclusivity. Therefore, women, specialists with disabilities, members of minority groups, migrants, should be given priority.

E-learning platform





Trainees have to do the quiz for the respective module group. Each trainee is allowed 3 attempts and needs a score of = <60% to pass the quiz. Upon the successful completion of all quizzes, each trainee is automatically awarded a **Europass Certificate** Supplement detailing the acquired competences.

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