TURNING SKILLS INTO ACTION

NS4nZEBs Final Conference Brings European Sills Projects Together

After three years of collaboration, innovation and capacity building, the LIFE NS4nZEBs project successfully organised its Final Conference, "Turning Skills into Action – How EU Funding is Upskilling the Building Sector towards a Zero Emission Future", on 8 June 2026 in Brussels.

The event brought together representatives from European institutions, training organisations, research centres, industry and several LIFE Buildskills projects to discuss one common challenge: **how to equip the construction workforce with the skills needed for Europe's transition towards zero-emission buildings.**

The conference demonstrated that achieving Europe's climate objectives is not only about developing new technologies—it also requires investing in people, training and lifelong learning.

Closing the skills gap for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings

During the conference, Thomas More University of Applied Sciences presented the achievements of the NS4nZEBs project.

Over the past three years, the consortium has developed:

- innovative training curricula for nine professional profiles;
- multilingual e-learning courses;
- interactive virtual laboratories and digital learning materials;
- Train-the-Trainer programmes;
- national pilot training courses in six countries;
- a sustainable online learning platform supporting continuous upskilling.

The project has focused on preparing professionals to work with photovoltaic systems, heat pumps, smart energy systems and Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs), helping bridge the gap between rapidly evolving technologies and the skills available in the construction sector.

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Learning from other European projects

The conference also showcased several complementary LIFE projects working on skills development for the building sector.

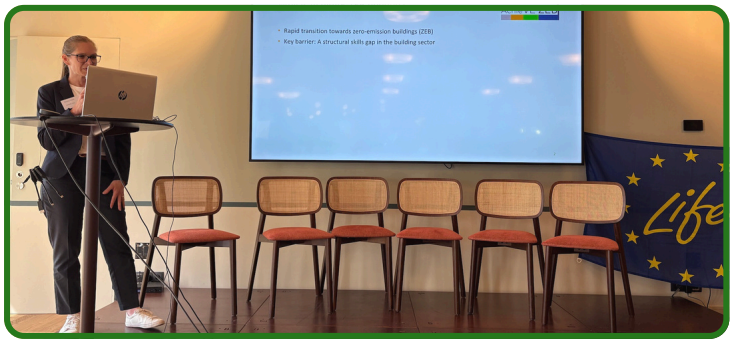
AchieVE-ZEB presented innovative approaches for integrating zero-emission building competences into both formal and non-formal education. The project highlighted the importance of modular curricula, stakeholder involvement and flexible learning pathways to prepare professionals for the future building stock.

HeatCraftHP shared its research on the learning needs of heat pump installers and demonstrated digital simulation tools that support practical, hands-on learning. The project underlined the importance of combining engineering expertise with innovative educational methods to improve installation quality.

BUSHROSSs demonstrated how multidisciplinary training programmes can strengthen Home Renovation One-Stop-Shops by combining technical, economic, legal and social expertise through modular online training and certification.

BUSUnited presented its new European Communities of Practice, creating a long-term network where projects, training providers and experts continue exchanging knowledge and developing solutions for sustainable construction skills across Europe.

Finally, **RESSKILL** introduced its work on renewable energy integration and digitalisation, including AI-supported skills assessment, micro-credentials, serious games and innovative online learning environments that prepare professionals for emerging green jobs.



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Panel Discussion: Turning Skills into Action

One of the highlights of the event was the interactive panel discussion with representatives from the participating projects. The discussion focused on the challenges of translating innovative training materials into large-scale implementation and explored how European cooperation can accelerate the upskilling of the construction workforce.

Participants agreed that collaboration between education providers, industry, policy makers and European initiatives is essential to ensure that the skills developed today meet tomorrow's market needs.

E-LEARNING PLATFORM

The NS4nZEBs learning platform remains freely available.

→ **Explore the e-learning platform**

→ **Visit the Project website**
www.NS4nZEBS.com

Looking Ahead

Although the NS4nZEBs project officially concludes in August 2026, its results will continue to support the energy transition. The training materials, digital learning platform and educational resources developed during the project will remain available, allowing vocational education providers, trainers and construction professionals to continue benefiting from the project's outcomes.

The consortium is proud of what has been achieved together and looks forward to seeing these results continue to contribute to a more skilled workforce and a more sustainable built environment across Europe.

Thank you to all project partners, trainers, stakeholders and participants who contributed to the success of NS4nZEBs.

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