

Overview

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1. BUILD UP Skills country updates and related news

New overarching 'Quality Mark' for energy efficiency work in the UK



The UK Government and Industry have agreed to work together to develop a new over-arching 'Quality Mark' for all energy efficiency and renewable energy measures related works. This will be underpinned by enforcement and standards (i.e. Consumer Charter, Code of Conduct, Code of Practice). This step has been prompted by widespread evidence emerging in the UK of poor design and installation of energy efficiency measures, which has led to damp and mould problems, and, as a consequence, reports of health problems. But this is an issue not limited to the UK. The research / accreditation / consultancy organisation Sustainable Homes, in its [critique](#) of the Quality Mark has stressed that past experience with similar schemes shows that what engages consumers, and hence ensures the success of the mark or standard, are simplicity and incentives.

The full report is [here](#). Richard Bayliss, project coordinator of BUILD UP Skills UK (Pillar I) addresses the news from the skills angle in his [blog](#)

Building refurbishment to improve energy efficiency – Proposals in the Clean Energy for Europe Policy Package

Refurbishing existing buildings to improve their energy efficiency is of particular importance in meeting the EU's climate and energy targets, but this has proved to be harder than setting improved standards for new buildings. There are a number of proposals contained within the EU's recent proposals for a clean energy package that are partly designed to address this. One example is extending the lifetime of the 'Energy Saving Obligation' within the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) so that energy suppliers put in place schemes to reduce their customers' energy consumption by 1.5 % each year. Before becoming EU law, the proposals must be agreed by both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Before becoming EU law, the proposals must be agreed by both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. Members of the Parliament have twice backed resolutions calling for a **30% improvement in energy efficiency** but Member States have supported just 27%, suggesting tough negotiations ahead. The European Energy Council, which brings together EU Energy Ministers, European Commission Vice-President and the European Commissioner for energy and climate action, recently voiced their [support for the package](#). However the most [recent news](#) indicates that Member States may be pushing for the 30% target to be non-binding.

The NEW BUILD UP Skills website is live!



BUILD UP Skills has a new website: www.buildup.eu/skills. From the users' perspective, all the content of the previous website has been integrated into the BUILD UP website, under the new heading 'Skills'.

Similarly, this new website has a dedicated place for [EU Exchange Meetings](#), [Technical Working Groups \(TWGs\)](#) and [National Pages](#) (including country factsheets summarising the BUILD UP Skills projects and Horizon 2020 Construction Skills projects in each country), in which BUILD UP Skills as well as Horizon 2020 Construction Skills projects in each country are listed.

The site also features BUILD UP Skills news / events and previous newsletters, and will soon be linked to the Collaboration Platform (BUILD UP Skills Community) for BUILD UP Skills project coordinators to interact with each other, particularly with regards to the issues that concern the four TWGs.

Calls for proposals concerning EU funding opportunities for VET stakeholders

At the end of January, two calls for proposals to apply for EU funding in the field of vocational education and training (VET) were published:

1. One concerns a [Pilot Project on long-term mobility for apprentices](#) aiming to test the viability of setting up "A European framework for (long-term) mobility of apprentices" that enables your apprentices to develop their skills and enhance their employability. **The deadline for applications is 29 March 2017**
2. The other has to do with the [Erasmus+ call for Sector Skills Alliances](#) (including a new activity on "Sectoral Blueprint") which is organised into three lots:
 - Lot 1 - Sector Skills Alliances for skills needs identification, aimed at identifying and providing detailed evidence on skills needs and gaps.
 - Lot 2 - Sector Skills Alliances for design and delivery of VET, aimed at responding to identified skills gaps and needs by developing curricula, teaching and training delivery methodologies.
 - Lot 3 - Sector Skills Alliances for implementing a new strategic approach ("Blueprint") to sectoral cooperation on skills aimed at developing a fully-fledged sectoral skills strategy, as well as ensuring appropriate quality and levels of skills to support growth, innovation and competitiveness in the sector. **The deadline for applications is 2 May 2017**

An [on-line INFODAY](#) on this Sector Skills Alliance call took place on 16 February 2017. Presentations and videos are available at this [link](#).

A shared vision on quality and effective apprenticeships and work-based learning

In December 2016, the Advisory Committee for vocational training composed of government representatives and social partners from more than 30 countries, adopted an Opinion concerning 'A shared vision on quality and effective apprenticeships and work-based learning'. This document is now available in all EU languages on the website of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (available [here](#)).

2. Upcoming events

Financing energy efficiency: lessons from successful Horizon 2020 projects and other initiatives across Europe, Brussels (Belgium), 30 March 2017

This event, organised by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) as part of the Sustainable Energy Investment Forums contract, will present a selection of ongoing initiatives at local, national and European levels, demonstrating that energy efficiency can, to a large extent, be financed through the mobilisation of private financing. The event will feature among others:

- Successful projects developing an investment pipeline at local and regional levels, which can be adapted and replicated on a large scale across the EU
- Key initiatives in Europe that are making energy efficiency increasingly attractive for the financial sector through policy dialogue, standardisation and benchmarking of investments
- Successful experiences of innovative financing schemes using public funds to leverage private finance for energy efficiency.

The registration form and agenda for the day are found on the [event website](#)

Energy Cities' Annual Conference 2017, Stuttgart (Germany), 26-28 April 2017

Under the motto "2050 starts today", this conference is set out to explore the energy transition needed in Europe and concretely, how fit its cities and their national governments are for taking effective action towards a low-carbon roadmap by 2050. A host of interactive sessions, talks and a plenary debate will serve to address among others topics such as stakeholder involvement for a stronger energy democracy, transfer of competences to the local level and monetary flows towards more local and low-carbon projects. More information, including the registration form, is available [here](#)

Meeting of the Thematic Group 2 on Skills, part of the European Commission's High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum for Construction, Brussels (Belgium), 3 May 2017

The aim of the meeting is to continue the dialogue among policy-makers and practitioners on skills, challenges and needs in the construction sector. Participants will discuss the recent developments in this area, thus shaping the discussion on skills at the construction conference organised for 27 June 2017. Topics include the analysis of skills trends and national policies within the framework of the [European Construction Sector Observatory](#), a possible involvement of the sector in the initiative ['Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills'](#) and the monitoring and evaluation of the [sector's activities within the European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#).

The 3rd European Summit on Building Information Modeling (BIM), Barcelona (Spain), 25-26 May 2017

The European BIM Summit sets out to bring together participants from across Europe and from across sectors of the building cycle, including technicians and managers of public administrations, promoters, architects, engineers, consultants, material suppliers and manufacturers.

There will be presentations and workshops where tools, services and products suitable for those working in the building sector will be analysed. The strategic institutions that contribute to the globalisation of BIM (AEEBC, RICS, EFIC, etc.) as well as representatives of industry and BIM manufacturers of products and software will be present. The full programme is available on the [European BIM summit website](#)

10th BUILD UP Skills EU Exchange Meeting, Rotterdam (the Netherlands), 30-31 May 2017

The next (and final) BUILD UP Skills EU exchange meeting will take place on the 30 and 31 May at the Bilderberg Hotel in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. As usual, this meeting is open to BUILD UP Skills project coordinators and partners involved in the BUILD UP Skills Pillar I, completed and ongoing BUILD UP Skills Pillar II, and ongoing Horizon 2020 Construction Skills projects. Similar to the past two EU Exchange Meetings, the 2-day event will include a site visit to a state-of-the-art construction site and energy efficiency centre / project, followed by a dinner for everyone who wants to join. As this is the last meeting in the series, emphasis is placed on the past two EU Exchange Meetings, the 2-day event will include a site visit to a state-of-the-art construction site and energy efficiency centre / project, followed by a dinner for everyone who wants to join. As this is the last meeting in the series, emphasis is placed on the past two EU Exchange Meetings or would like a reminder of what was discussed there, please visit [the page on the BUILD UP Skills website](#) dedicated to sharing their outputs - programme, list of participants, posters and all the presentations.

EU Green Week, Brussels (Belgium) and various other locations, 29 May – 2 June 2017

Under the theme of 'Green jobs for a greener future', the EU Green Week will focus on how EU environmental policies are creating green jobs and contributing to economic, sustainable and socially responsible growth in the EU. It will also highlight the demand for new types of green skills in many professional sectors, among which, the construction sector. While the high-level conference will take place in Brussels, the programme will also feature a series of side events across Europe. As well as being invited to take part in person, stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to become 'virtually' involved by participating in a wide range of on-line and social media activities. More information on the programme and side events is found on the [EU Green Week website](#)



EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2017, Brussels (Belgium), 20-22 June 2017

The EUSEW concerns the most important European conference dedicated to sustainable energy policy issues. The programme includes sessions organised by the European Commission, opportunities for energy stakeholders to debate new policy developments, best practices and sustainable energy ideas, and networking events for participants to forge alliances. The conference begins with an awards ceremony to prize outstanding projects. More information is available at: <http://eusew.eu/>

European Vocational Skills Week, Brussels (Belgium) and various other locations, 20-24 November 2017

Mid-March, Commissioner Marianne Thyssen announced that the Second European Vocational Skills Week would take place at the end of this year (the first event last year mobilised 1000 associated events and activities across Europe). The theme remains 'Discover your talent', encouraging continuous training at all stages and ages, with a strong focus on the importance of quality and excellence in VET. The mobility of VET learners and quality apprentices, partnerships between businesses and VET providers, and sectoral approaches to address skills mismatches and the response to rapidly changing skills needs will be also addressed.