

# BUILD UP SKILLS

## Newsletter #2, May 2016

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### 1. BUILD UP Skills country updates and related news

#### Forward to a colleague to subscribe!

If you are enjoying our BUILD UP Skills newsletters and know colleagues or partners that would also be interested in receiving it, [please have them subscribe here!](#)

#### The 8th BUILD UP Skills EU exchange meeting agenda is now available!

The agenda for the 8th BUILD UP Skills EU exchange meeting that will take place on 2-3 June 2016 in Budapest, Hungary has already been published [here](#). Besides slots for making progress within the four Technical Working Groups set up at the previous 7th EU exchange meeting, participants can expect a plenary session on reporting on indicators and parallel sessions on cross-craft understanding, poster presentations, finalised projects and ideas sharing regarding the H2020 call – EE14 – on construction skills. On top of that, the 8th meeting will offer a site visit to two highly-innovative construction projects (for more information see [Newsletter #1](#)) followed by an optional dinner.

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 Horizon2020 construction skills projects.

If you missed the previous EU exchange meeting or would like a reminder of what was discussed there, please visit [this](#) page on the BUILD UP Skills website. There you will find the programme, list of participants, posters and presentations of the two-day event as well as the [final report](#) of the meeting.



#### Hungarians eager to renovate homes, according to a recent survey

A recent study by Energiaklub, Hungarian Climate Policy Institute and Applied Communications concludes that Hungarians are eager to renovate and extend their homes. The results of the study are based on a focus group run in July 2015 and a survey of 8092 households at the end of 2015. The findings indicate that the main motivations for refurbishment are related to their desire for comfort and the needs of their growing families. Trust in construction experts is high and expert opinion in construction decisions are embraced, but when it comes to the purchase of necessary building supplies, discounts and first-hand experience become the most important factors.

Source: <http://energiaklub.hu/en/news/this-is-how-hungarians-renovate-%E2%80%93-energy-efficiency-barometer-2014>

#### The time is right to sell training on energy efficient refurbishment of existing buildings in the UK

On 26 March 2015, the Energy Efficiency Regulations, better known as the minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES), passed into law. As from 1 April 2018 for new lets and renewals of tenancies and from 1 April 2020 for all existing tenancies, there will be a requirement for any property rented out in the private rented sector to have a minimum energy performance rating of E on an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). This means it will be unlawful to rent out a property which does not meet the minimum rating of E, unless there is an applicable exemption. This is the strictest approach found to date in the EU. It is expected it will create a big demand for energy efficient construction skills and workforce in the UK. With the new legislation due to come into force in April 2018 in the UK, and possibly other European countries, the time is right to sell training on energy efficient refurbishment of existing buildings.

#### Report on market viability and deliverability of energy efficient construction in the UK

This recently published research report [Energy Efficiency Market Viability and Supply Chain Deliverability](#) commissioned by the Supply Chain Insight Group analyses the factors that influence energy efficiency decisions by building owners – and how important trust and certainty are. The report suggests that there is little evidence to suggest that the market can deliver energy efficiency solutions without intervention. Knowledge gaps identified include the need to improve the skills of the workforce and increase the pace of innovation. Stimulating demand from consumers will require trusted relationships between the supply chain and the consumer.

#### The FinSa tool to calculate and compare refurbishment costs of municipal buildings is freely available for download

The FinSa tool, developed by the ZNES Europa University Flensburg, allows users to calculate and compare refurbishment costs of municipal buildings. This tool can be used by local authorities to facilitate the development of long-term building refurbishment strategies as it allows for an estimation of the costs for energy-efficient refurbishment of buildings owned by local authorities by 2050. The tool was developed with the research project "Climate Protection Concept 2050 for Municipal Buildings" in cooperation with ten German local authorities. The FinSa software program offers three options: a business as usual scenario, a climate protection scenario and an individually defined scenario by the authority.

The tool is available at: <https://www.uni-flensburg.de/?18249>

#### HEADS UP! Upcoming H2020 call on construction skills

The Commission has announced a new H2020 call – EE14 – on construction skills for the programme year 2016-2017 as part of the programme Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy (Visit the Horizon 2020 Work Programme here: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016\\_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-energy\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-energy_en.pdf)).

There are two submission deadlines: 15 Sept 2016 and 7 June 2017. The indicative budget per project is between 0.5 and 1 million euro. This call may be of particular interest for countries that are not part of Pillar II of BUILD UP Skills. It also provides the opportunity for professionals to apply as experts for the evaluation of proposals. Access the database of experts on the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html>

The focus of proposals should be on upgrading or setting up large-scale qualification and training schemes. The running of training activities will not be in the scope of the proposal. The objective behind this call is to increase the number of skilled building professionals and/or blue collar workers across the building value chain. The call includes a specific focus on the engagement of SMEs.

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/4092-ee-14-2016-2017.html>

### 2. Learning from a BUILD UP Skills finalised project – Interview with Jadranka Arizankovska (coordinator BUILD UP Skills BEET, FYROM)



BEET (BUILD UP skills Pillar II) finished in March 2016, completing a project that was first sparked in 2012. At that time Macedonia was in the midst of a process of introducing energy efficiency measures in the country. Various types of actors – such as the Economic Chamber of Macedonia, the Association of business and consultancy, the Business and Economy Faculty, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies – decided to help the construction sector upskilling process and so the first phase (Pillar I) of the BUILD UP Skills project in Macedonia was started. Parting from the status quo analysis and roadmap develop in Pillar I, BUILD UP Skills BEET (second phase, Pillar II) focused on developing schemes and modules for training building workers so that the demand for trained workers to build according to energy efficiency principles could be sustained. Below we present an interview with Jadranka Arizankovska (coordinator of BUILD UP Skills BEET, FYROM) from April 2016.

#### What are the main achievements of the project? Are there any quantifiable impacts (results)?

JA - The objective was to introduce schemes that would improve the skills of workers on 5 occupations (i.e. facade workers, electrical installation workers, HVAC workers, roofers and joiners) that together cover the skills needed for the whole building sector to become energy efficient. Specific objectives were on the one hand to train the trainers that would in turn provide training to workers, and on the other hand, to increase the demand of trainings from workers and companies.

Against this backdrop, the main achievements of BEET are:

- 5 occupational standards developed for 5 priority occupations;
- 200 trainers trained for all 5 priority occupations;
- 250 applications received;
- 196 certificates given;
- 20 seminars run;
- 1050 workers got trained and certified in total following the procedures of recognition of previous learning (RPL).

#### How have you monitored results during the project?

JA - We developed a monitoring document to monitor 1) project outputs; 2) project impacts and performance indicators; and 3) project activities. We made sure throughout the project that activities and results were following the timing set for them and outputs were delivered on time.

#### What are the main lessons learnt?

JA -

- The first lesson learnt is that the involvement of relevant governmental institutions is key, certainly in a small country like Macedonia. Energy efficiency is new but very popular, so the government was eager to advance in this front not just in the building sector, but in other sectors too. This also ensures that money had been well-invested, as activities are more likely to be picked up and get a follow up after the termination of the contract.
- The process of selection of trainers requires more time than it seems. It is a process that has to be carefully carried out and considering some trainers apply for all skills trainings, the process took in our case more time than we had foreseen.
- It is important to insist the government to initiate changes in public procurement criteria to include as obligatory certified EE workers in the building industry. Without insistence it is unlikely to happen.

#### What were the main challenges encountered and how did you overcome them?

JA - One main challenge was that for 3 of the 5 occupations we were developing (i.e. installers, HVAC, and...), no standards existed and therefore we had to develop the whole nomenclature, standards ourselves. This took more time (i.e. time) than expected. Another challenge we faced was the resources needed in order to be able to offer practical training. Safety aspects are costly and we hadn't foreseen that in the budget for the project so the trainers were mostly giving theoretical training. Eventually some companies engaged with the project and provided us with components, gadgets we needed for the practical training.

#### How are you going to finance the continuity of the project?

JA - Companies are currently very interested in training their workers and therefore there is a discussion going on at the Chamber of Commerce (CoC) on this. For instance, the CoC is considering a "Praterian Fund" that provides funds to train workers hence unbundling the companies. Also European Funds such as the Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA) fund a component called "development of human resources" which can serve to fund training. Lastly, the agency for employment and the Ministry of Social Affairs are using the modules developed in BEET as example and they are providing funds for training.

#### If you could go back in time, what would you do differently now?

JA - We would ask for a 30 months project instead of 20 so that we have (more) time for certain procedures we had been struggling with (e.g. selecting trainers and RPL procedure). We would also foresee more budget for the practical component of the training which is extremely important and we couldn't address that much.

#### How far do you think your results can be replicated in other countries?

JA - The procedure for RPL, the whole module which is very innovative and has been developed very professionally, is replicable. Actually, the whole procedure can be replicated for other professions upon modification.

### 3. Upcoming events

#### 3rd QUALICHeCK Conference, Brussels (Belgium), took place: 15-19 May

QUALICHeCK is an EU project and platform with the ambition to improve quality and compliance in the building sector regarding energy. The third conference covered, among others the project's lessons learnt regarding quality of the works and data for Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), the potential impact of Building Information Modelling (BIM) uptake regarding EPC calculations, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) related databases and initiatives to ensure quality of the works.

More information on the conference can be found on the QUALICHeCK website: <http://qualicheck-platform.eu/#>

#### 12th REHVA World Congress CLIMA 2016, Aalborg (Denmark), 22-25 May

The 12th REHVA World Congress CLIMA 2016 will focus on building and Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) system performance in practice in relation to fulfillment of the intended design, ability to fulfil the needs of the occupants, interaction with the users in daily practice and role in the smart energy system. The congress will consist of a mixture of keynote, scientific and technical sessions as well as workshops, industry forums, student activities, technical tours and training courses.

Read more on: <http://www.clima2016.org/about.aspx>

#### The IEPEEC (International Energy Policy and Program Evaluation Conference), Amsterdam (the Netherlands), 7-9 June

The North American IEPEEC (International Energy Program Evaluation Conference) has been organising conferences since the mid-1980s. Since 2010, three conferences have been held in the European cities of Paris (2010), Rome (2012) and Berlin (2014). The motto of the upcoming conference in Amsterdam is "Make the Paris agreement a reality with effective evaluation for energy efficiency". The agenda for the three-day conference as well as the proceedings from previous conferences are available on the IEPEEC website: <http://www.iepeec.org/>.

#### International Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency and Eco-Innovation, Presentation & Brokerage Event, Liverpool (UK), 22 June

The event will focus on Horizon 2020, technology transfer and commercial opportunities for businesses making the transition to a circular economy and becoming more resource efficient. The event is taking place during the International Festival for Business 2016 (IFB2016), a global marketplace that brings together thousands of businesses from around the world for three weeks of events, networking and deal-making.

For more information and registration visit:

<https://www.b2match.eu/h2020/resourceefficiency2016/>

#### Annual Summit of the International Transport Forum, Leipzig (Germany), 18-20 May

The Annual Summit of the International Transport Forum is the global transport policy event bringing together ministers from around the world to share policy perspectives with CEOs, heads of international organisations, thought leaders from civil society and academia. At the conference strategic and topical issues across all transport modes are addressed while participants can engage in the debate through a variety of session formats.

The programme and speakers list has already been published on: <http://2016.itf-oecd.org/>

#### 8th BUILD UP Skills EU exchange meeting, Budapest (Hungary), 2-3 June

The next BUILD UP Skills EU exchange meeting will take place on 2-3 June 2016 in Budapest, Hungary. The event will consist of plenary and break-out sessions, networking opportunities and a side visit guided by Hungarian coordinator Károly Matolcsy. Stay tuned for details on the registration and agenda for the day through the BUILD UP Skills website: <http://www.buildupskills.eu/>.

#### European Sustainable Energy Week 2016 – EUSEW 2016, Brussels (Belgium) 14-16 June

EUSEW 2016 will take place from 14 to 16 June 2016 in Brussels. This conference is considered by policy authorities as "the most important European conference dedicated to sustainable energy policy issues". It includes an awards ceremony and sessions organised by the European Commission to encourage energy stakeholders to forge alliances as well as to debate new policy developments, best practices and sustainable energy ideas. The conference is open to anyone working on clean, secure and efficient energy from public authorities, to energy agencies, to industry associations, to businesses, to civil society organisations and media. Conference website: <http://www.eusew.eu/>

#### Central Europe towards Sustainable Building 2016, Innovations for Sustainable Future, Prague (Czech Republic), June 22-24

Central Europe towards Sustainable Building Prague 2016 (CESB16) is part of the 2016 International Sustainable Built Environment conference series convened under auspices of the international organisations International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment (iISBE), the International Council for Buildings (ICB), the United Nations Environmental Programme's Sustainable Buildings and climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) and the International Infrastructure Conference (IFIC). CESB16 will be the fourth conference in a row held in Prague on the actual topic of sustainable building. For the concrete topics that will be touched upon, the programme and further information visit:

<http://CESB.CZ/>