



– PRESS RELEASE –

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First projects selected to set out national training strategies for the European building workforce

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) announced today the results of the first call for proposals under BUILD UP Skills, a multi-annual initiative financed through the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme.

With 21 projects selected for a total funding of €7.5 million, representatives of the building industry, public authorities and the vocational training sector of 21 European countries are now committed to establishing national roadmaps for qualifying their craftsmen and other on-site workers on high energy performance solutions for the building sector. They will establish national platforms to determine skill needs and training gaps for the building sector and provide strategic recommendations for necessary qualification measures. European exchange activities will ensure best practices are effectively spread among countries.

"This initiative comes at a crucial time for the building sector, which is largely composed of SMEs and is still recovering from the economic crisis in many European countries. By mobilising the right actors, these BUILD UP Skills projects will greatly help the building sector deliver on the large contribution it is expected to make to reach the EU 2020 energy targets." said Patrick Lambert, Director of the EACI, which manages the BUILD UP Skills initiative on behalf of the European Commission.

The 21 national proposals were selected from 41 applications submitted under the 2011 IEE Call for proposals. The 21 countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The remaining EU countries are expected to follow in 2012.

In 2012 and 2013, following on from these national qualification strategies, IEE funding will be devoted to setting up or upgrading training schemes for craftsmen throughout Europe.

BUILD UP Skills, a specific funding opportunity running from 2011 to 2013 under the IEE programme aims to:

- > establish roadmaps on training needs for a building workforce qualified in energy efficiency and renewable energy in each member state by 2020;
- > support the set up or upgrade of large-scale qualification/training schemes for the continuous training and further education of the building workforce;

> exchange best European practices.

For a list of the 21 selected BUILD UP Skills projects see:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/doc/List_of_selected_BUILD_UP_Skills_projects_WEB.pdf

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About the IEE programme

With € 730 million funds available between 2007 and 2013, the Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) programme reinforces EU's efforts to meet its 2020 energy targets to ensure a secure and competitive supply of energy while fighting climate change. The programme runs annual calls for proposals and its funding covers up to 75% of the eligible project costs. To date, the programme has supported over 500 projects with more than 3,000 beneficiaries.

[<http://ec.europa.eu/intelligentenergy>]

About the EACI

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) was established by the European Commission to ensure the effective management of three EU-funding schemes and a European business network. The EACI's team is made up of specialists on energy, the environment, business support, multi-modal transport, communication and finance.

[<http://ec.europa.eu/eaci>]