

Newsletter n°3

The QualiCert Project and its Consortium

By December 2011, QualiCert intends to facilitate a **concerted action among different Member States** towards the implementation of certification or equivalent qualification of installers of small-scale RES (renewable energy sources) that can be **mutually recognisable**. This will help Member States to be in line with article 14 of the European RES Directive (28/2009/EC), obliging them to develop such schemes by 31st December 2012.



The QualiCert Consortium together with some members of the project's High Level Steering Group

QualiCert will contribute to these goals by collecting information on the different schemes existing in Europe and by identifying **European common "key success criteria"** for setting-up and running such schemes. A first set of 5 countries are tackled which are **Austria, France, Greece, Italy and Poland**, our dissemination activities having the objective of replicating this consultation process to the other **EU countries** as well.

This work is supported by a large consortium of 13 partners who are cooperating in the QualiCert project since July 2009. The partners represent some of the main stakeholders in this process such as national energy agencies, training and certification bodies, European RES Industry and Heat Pumps associations and European associations of installers and construction crafts and SMEs.

The Consortium

The coordinator



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The partners



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What's new

A **matrix** with a list of features of EU existing certification/equivalent qualification schemes as well as a **glossary** of common terms to be used were elaborated. These are being validated by key national stakeholders either being part of our High Level Steering Group (see below) or having being invited in our “**validation workshops**” (see on the right).

The validation process will lead to the prioritisation of the features that best contribute to the success of such schemes.

The final matrix and glossary will be incorporated in a **Manual of Success Criteria** which draft has also been presented during the validation workshops. This document is intended to provide EU Member States with **recommendations on how to use a European “common denominator” to build national certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes that can be mutually recognisable.**

Validation workshops in France and Greece



Validation Workshops

A series of validation workshops were organized in the period **May-July 2010** in **Austria, France, Greece, Italy** and **Poland**. They gathered, among others, representatives of national authorities, accreditation/training bodies, RES industry associations, the construction sector, and installers.

The objective was to have the **matrix, glossary** and **draft manual reviewed and validated** by actors who could ensure that the specific realities of the considered countries were correctly translated in the exercise. This was also a good opportunity for exchanging information on existing best practices and for highlighting the path Member States should take when drafting their national certification scheme or equivalent qualification scheme according to the requirements included in the RES Directive.

Some findings related to our target countries:

- **Austria:** “standardization” is a key word to ensure a common understanding and mutual recognition of what is in place in various EU countries. In this sense, Austria appears to be one of the few member states where various technical training and certification systems are already in place. Nevertheless, more should be done in order to create a synergy amongst them.
- **France:** schemes applied to both companies and individuals would suit the French system. Moreover, there is a need to create connections between renewable energy and building/construction schemes, so as to have a unique structure to be followed.

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- **Greece:** there is no official certification or equivalent qualification scheme for RES installers in this country. Even though a legislative framework has already been set up, there is still a lack of a clear distribution of responsibilities amongst the bodies that should be involved in the certification or equivalent qualification process.

- **Italy:** no official certification/equivalent qualification schemes for RES installers exist at a national level. Furthermore, its geographical and administrative fragmentation has led to the adoption of various schemes in the different regions that are not necessarily mutually recognised. However, training in the field of RES systems is organised by different actors.

- **Poland:** an equivalent qualification scheme was established in 2003, but is no official certification scheme for installers of small-scale renewable energy exists in the country. Nevertheless, many stakeholders express their interest to implement such a scheme. However, some producers or distributors of RES heat technologies (solar thermal, heat pumps or other) provide training for installers on the proper use of RES technologies (mainly solar collectors) conducted by their training centres.

Validation workshops in Austria, Italy and Poland



What's next

The last validation workshop will be held in **Brussels on the 30th September 2010**. This **European validation workshop** will gather key stakeholders coming from both Belgian and European organisations and dealing with certification/equivalent qualification schemes. During the event, the QualiCert consortium will present the first outputs of the project, and highlight the results of the consultation process already held in the 5 core-countries. This will be enriched and finalised by involving the attendees in a roundtable discussion led by the project partners as a conclusion of the workshop.

We appreciate your comments...

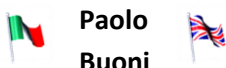
...do not hesitate to [contact us!](#)

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More on our High Level Steering Group

A High Level Steering Group of external experts has been created within the QualiCert project in order to ensure a constant exchange of viewpoints with key European stakeholders with insight knowledge of certification/equivalent qualification schemes at the EU level.

Let's keep knowing more about them!



Paolo Buoni



Funder and Managing Director of the European Energy Centre (EEC) based in the United Kingdom and part of the Italian Centro Studi Galileo, Mr. Polo Buoni successfully launches training programmes for technicians in the renewable energy sector, including international seminars and conferences in Europe and India.

Elsehanna Elgasen



Lead assessor and accreditation manager at SWEDAC (Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment) since 1995, she is specialised in Accreditation and assessment of certification bodies in general, and in certification of persons in particular.

Alain Maugard



President of Qualibat (the French body for qualification of installers) since September 2009, Mr. Maugard is a civil engineer specialized in the Construction and Urban Development fields. He was also the President of both the Scientific and technological center for building construction (CSTB) and the European Network of Building Research Institutes (ENBRI), in the periods 1993-2009 and 2000-2002 respectively.

George Georghiou



Dr George E. Georghiou is the Head of PV Technology, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Cyprus. Being also a member of the CENELEC and IEC TC82 committees on PV, Dr Georghiou is acting as an expert evaluator for FP7 energy proposals as well as a member of the International Council of Large Electric Systems (CIGRE).

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