



“A Catalogue of Job Opportunities in the construction sector”

Job positions like “installation and maintenance experts on energy systems” or “energy quality auditors” are among the green jobs more likely to experience a boom in the construction sector, according to a detailed report made in the context of the “Connecting People for Green Skills” project.

Background

The economic and financial crisis has largely affected one important sector of economic activity for most of the EU Member States: the construction sector. A number of EU countries report a deep recession in this sector and inevitably high levels of unemployment in relevant occupations.



At the same time, there has been a growing demand for new skills and qualifications in the construction sector, mainly as a consequence of the rapid greening of activities and of advances in techniques and technologies which have changed the skill requirements faster than education and training systems can respond.

There is, therefore, a great need to address skills shortages, including appropriate training components.

So, what it is a “Catalogue of Job Opportunities”?

The Catalogue of Job Opportunities is the first main output of the European Project “Connecting People for Green Skills”, an 18 - month project (Oct.2014 - Mar. 2016) co-funded by the PROGRESS Programme of the European Union. It is mainly an identification of those jobs in the construction sector that are - or expected to be in high demand in the following years.

After five months of extensive research in the areas of employment, construction and energy sustainability through on-line and self reported data,

as well as several publications and questionnaires, the project partnership developed a: “Synthesis Report” where we assessed the state of play of the construction sector in the 5 partnership countries (i.e. Cyprus, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Spain).

The Synthesis report lead to the diagnosis of the new - and potentially future - employment needs of the sector, which is the Catalogue of Job Opportunities.

According to the conducted research, these job opportunities included in the Catalogue, can be clustered into the following three categories:

- Specialists in installation and maintenance of new processes and technologies to use energy, water, application of bioclimatic criteria in construction, waterproofing systems and insulation, etc. of new housing and existing housing parks;
- Consulting services on the implementation of new technologies to achieve energy efficient buildings;
- Expert audit, certification and quality control.



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Who We Are . . .

Almost a year ago a dynamic partnership has been set up in order to address the issue of skills shortages in the construction sector, taking into account the high level of unemployment in the sector due to the current economic crisis, and simultaneously the growing demand for labour force with specific “green skills”.



The result is the “Connecting People for Green Skills”, an 18 - month project (Oct.2014 - Mar. 2016) co-funded by the PROGRESS Programme of the European Union, aiming to detect the work and training factors that make it impossible for construction sector professionals to get jobs that require new qualifications and skills.

The “Green Skills” consortium consist of 8 partners from 5 EU Member States, i.e. Spain (Territorial Employment Pact in the Ribera, the Valencian Institute of building and the Valencian Federation of Builders Enterprises), Cyprus (the European Office of Cyprus), Denmark (GATE 21), Lithuania (Vilnius Builders Training Centre) and Poland (the Polish Association of Construction Employers and Danmar Computers Ltd.).

The project kick-off meeting took place on 2-3 December 2014 in Alzira (Spain) at the headquarters of the Territorial Employment Pact in the Ribera (Pater) that coordinates the project. The partners established a pro-

ject’s roadmap and the work to be conducted in the first months of the project, i.e:

- An updated **diagnosis on the EU construction sector situation, with a special attention to its employees;**
- A **report on best practices and interesting experiences** that have been implemented in sustainable building in EU countries;
- A “Catalogue of new employment Opportunities” in the form of 'green jobs' that, once evaluated the market situation, might be able to establish a new niche job with future prospects.



The “Green Skills” team, during the kick-off meeting in Alzira, Spain

Where We Are now. . .



During the first 5 months of the project, the partners have prepared a report on the “Green jobs in construction experiences in Europe”. The report was presented in the 2nd project meeting, which took place in the premises of the Association of Construction of Poland (PZPB) in Warsaw, on 8-9 April 2015. and

it is a result of partnership member’s research in the five participating countries.

The paper is a result of partnership members’ research in the five participating countries, and it provides a **snapshot of the sustainable construction sector in Europe** as well as some of the **best practices in sustainability, energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact** that companies have implemented in recent years. Finally, it identifies what type of labour demand is creating this economic model.

Through various surveys (in the form of on-line questionnaires and self - reported data) among key players (builders, realtors, employment agencies), the report provides an overview of this green

employment and its future growth potential, which will benefit from being among the priority action policies in Europe 2020, European Union’s growth strategy for the next decade.



Did you know that. . .

- *By 2013, construction output was less than half the level it had been prior to the crisis (in 2007) in Spain and Cyprus.*
- *During the period 2007–13 Poland recorded by far the largest expansion in construction activity as its index of production rose by 17.2 %.*
- *In the last two years Lithuania has seen its levels of construction increasing.*
- *According to Eurostat, Spain and Poland have the highest recorded construction activity, as of July 2014.*
- *Poland is in the list of countries with better prospects.*
- *Denmark is the country with the highest stability and growth forecast within this European project.*

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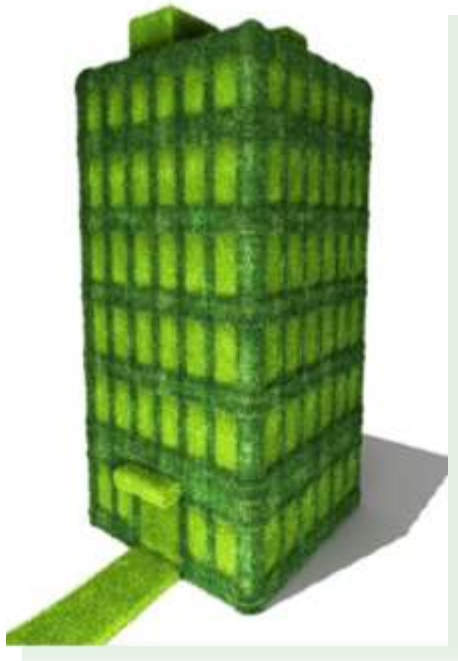
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Examples of the identified “Best Practices”



roof.

University of Cyprus to become a ‘green campus’. By 2016, the University of Cyprus is expected to be the first university in the world to be fully rehabilitated by conventional electricity, and exclusively dependent from solar energy, taking full advantage of the alternative energy



sources.



Green Lighthouse – IT was built in 2009 and it is Denmark’s first CO2 neutral public building and serves as faculty building at the Faculty of Science at the University of Copenhagen.

The Synthesis Report that has been prepared by the partners, includes several

Our Next Goal: Study the “Supply and Demand” of Green Jobs in the Construction Sector



After finalizing the “Catalogue of Job Opportunities” our aim is to deepen our study into the labour market and get a more technical awareness of the current supply and demand for green jobs in the construction sector. The primal objective is to create a “List of Skills”, in other words, to identify and map the skills and competencies, as well as the motivations of jobseekers.

The analysis of the “Catalogue of Job Opportunities” and the “List of Skills”, will allow us to evaluate real knowledge of workers on the opportunity offered by green jobs, the workers availability for retraining and, moreover, the training, employment and/or motivational gaps that separate these professionals from the access to the identified “green jobs”.

A National Experts Committee will be set up in each of the partners’ countries in order to select the job niches that best fit the capabilities of job seekers regarding current

supply in the labour market or those that can be achieved after a specific and realistic training plan. The reports from each Committee will help us to create a “Skills’ Profile File” which will be a detailed description of the training requirements, specialization, experience and psychological profile that will be included for each of the jobs identified.

This guidance will be provided to any relevant stakeholder in the construction sector, with the aim of promoting green jobs, improve employability of workers and pro-

note their access to new occupations related to sustainable building.

Last but not least, a Technological Platform will be launched, in order to allow an easy and intuitive linking between green jobs offers and jobseekers who already have the skills and specializations demanded around sustainable and environmentally responsible building. This platform will, in turn, support the teaching units to foster the acquisition of green skills and professional expertise to be developed in later stages of the project.

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Green Skills project in High Visibility Events

SAVE THE DATE!

“Greening’ Europe’s construction industry: challenges and opportunities”

**17 June 2015,
14:00 -15:30**

**EC Charlemagne Building
(room Mansholt), Brussels**

**REGISTER [HERE](#)
(by 8 June 2015)**

The workshop is addressed to stakeholders and decision-makers on local, regional, national and European level in the fields of energy, employment and professional training with focus on ‘green construction’.

Policy Conference of the EU Sustainable Energy Week

The first conclusions on employability in sustainable construction obtained in the research phase of the project ‘Connecting People for Green Skills’ will be presented at the high level Policy Conference of the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2015 (EUSEW), during the workshop entitled: “Greening’ Europe’s construction industry: challenges and opportunities”.

The event will be held on Wednesday, 17 June 2015, from 14:00 to 15:30, at the prestigious European Commission’s Charlemagne building in Brussels. It forms part of the Green Skills project dissemination strategy and it is organised by the European Office of Cyprus in collaboration with the Climate-KIC and ERRIN - European Regions Research & Innovation Network.

The concept of the workshop has a twofold objective: to reflect on how energy and employment policies can come together to maximise the benefits of green growth and jobs; and to discuss changes in

value chains in the construction sector and the effects on the green skills and professional training needs. Energy efficiency initiatives in EU countries that have a significant potential for job creation in this sector will be showcased during the workshop.

The EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is an initiative of the European Commission, designed to spread best practices, inspire new ideas and build alliances to help meet the EU’s energy and climate goals.



Green Skills goes to OPEN DAYS 2015!

The Green Skills project will be presented at the “Smart regions contributing to the goals of the Energy Union” workshop that will take place on 13 October 2015, 9:00-13:00, at the ‘Norway House’, Rue Archimède 17, Brussels, within the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities - OPEN DAYS 2015!

The workshop aims to highlight the role of regions within the Energy Union - the European Commission’s flagship initiative that **energy efficiency, transitioning to a low-carbon society and developing new technologies and renewed infrastructure.**

It will be split into two parts:

- the first being a workshop showcasing regional activity and projects on energy efficiency;
- the second being a networking and partner brokerage event.

The event will be opened **by a key note speaker from the European Commission**, while it will examine **how local and regional authorities can support the development of green skills and jobs to ensure that local workforces are equipped to deliver the EU’s Energy Union ambitions.**

The second part of the event will be an **innovative brokerage session providing participants with an opportunity to network, and to generate ideas for transnational cooperation.**

Registrations will open in July 2015 through the OPEN DAYS 2015 [website!](#)

Organised jointly by the:
European Office of Cyprus, and the regions of East of England, Mid-Norway, West Norway, Silesia, Warmia-Mazury, Autonomus region of Sardinia, Province of Flevoland.

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Green Skills related projects

“PROF-TRAC” Project



The project will develop and maintain an education platform for dedicated trainings and continuous development for professionals, in integrated multi-disciplinary approach for nZEB principles, in a Post Graduate qualification/curriculum.

PROF-TRAC is specifically targeting the need to train architects, engineers, building man-

More information: <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8291188>

agers and other building professionals in the necessary skills for designing, constructing, managing and operating NZE construction and retrofitting.

The proposed approach is estimated to lead to a substantial reduction of skills mismatch for professionals, increased managerial capacity to support innovation and sustainable energy use in buildings through new leadership, design, construction and management skills for professionals at middle and senior level and fostering of a better cooperation between disciplines.

“SERIO” Project



SERIO is a Lifelong Learning funded project which addresses the issue of safety in the construction sector.

In particular, the project focuses on Health and Safety skills development by means of the creation of multimedia training, based on case studies with the use of contemporary devices.

More information: <http://serio.mobi/>

“Transferring Open Content on Energy-efficient Buildings - T.O.C.E.B.” Project

The project aims to contribute to innovative and sustainable solutions in the building sector of the project partner countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania and Poland), to enhance the qualifications of VET teachers and apprentices/students and deliver core competences, such as technical and language skills as well as skills in media use during the learning process.



The project partners will transfer the core elements of the open content platform e-genius by developing 4 modules on:

- Energy-efficient buildings;
- Basics of Thermal Building Renovation;
- Insulation Materials;
- Façade Systems.

More information: <http://toceb.eu/>



“Start-App” Project



The project supports small and medium sized businesses (SME) in intensifying their commitment to in-company training. To that end,

this project provides solutions for the recruitment of young people interested in on the job training.

The focus is on methods of acquisition, selection and integration of trainees during the first phase of their staff membership in the company.

More information: <http://startapp-project.eu/>

“Conoce y Actúa” Project

(Know and Take Action)

The project aims to raise awareness, debate and encourage the participation of entrepreneurs and companies of emerging sectors in European Union’s policies, facilitating access to the various Community programs and funding lines.

Through dissemination and communication, the project promotes business growth and employability in activities that respect principles such as sustainability, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies, in the framework of the Horizon 2020 strategy.



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Green Skills Partnership

	<p>Territorial Employment Pact in la Ribera - (PATER)</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>www.pater.es</p>
	<p>DANMAR Computers Ltd</p> <p>Poland</p> <p>www.danmar-computers.com.pl</p>
	<p>European Office of Cyprus (EOC)</p> <p>Cyprus</p> <p>www.eoc.org.cy</p>
	<p>GATE 21</p> <p>Denmark</p> <p>www.gate21.dk</p>
 <p>PÓLSKI ZWIĄZEK PRACODAWCÓW BUDOWNICTWA</p>	<p>Polish Association of Construction Employers (PZPB)</p> <p>Poland</p> <p>www.pzpb.com.pl</p>
 <p>Federación Valenciana de Empresarios de la Construcción</p>	<p>Valencian Association of Construction Companies (FEVEC)</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>www.fevec.com</p>
 <p>INSTITUTO VALENCIANO DE LA EDIFICACIÓN</p>	<p>Valencian Institute of Building (IVE)</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>www.five.es</p>
 <p>VILNIUS STATYBININKŲ RENGIMO CENTRAS</p>	<p>Vilnius Builders Training Centre</p> <p>Lithuania</p> <p>www.vsrc.lt</p>

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