

## Near Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) Training in the Southern EU Countries (EL)

April 2022  
A Summary  
EDDIE Consortium

**The most Southern European countries still lag behind the advances made in the northern European countries in the retrofitting and construction of Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB), this due to the knowledge gap that encompasses various sectors of society on energy efficiency.**

Buildings are a key element when we talk about energy and climate change, they are responsible for 40% of the final energy consumption in the EU and for 36% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, generated mainly during its construction, use, renovation and demolition. This high consumption is largely because 75% of the EU's building stock is inefficient from an energy point of view, that is, a large part of the energy consumed in its environment is wasted. Only 1% undergo renovations each year, so it is vital to create programs that encourage the creation and renovation of more sustainable housing to save energy and combat climate change.

Major energy goals have been proposed for 2030 and 2050 by the European Union, such as having a decarbonized building stock, the integration of decentralized energy production based on renewable sources and, as a general objective, climate change mitigation. To achieve them, a great quality change is required throughout the energy and construction sectors, rehabilitating existing buildings and constructing new buildings with nearly-zero energy consumption. This change in the sector implies a great effort to increase the number of qualified professionals, which is directly related to the quality of educational programs and the inclusion of training on smart solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings.

Northern Europe countries they are in a more advanced situation in the rehabilitation and construction of NZEB buildings, on the other hand, in the south it has not yet been possible to reach that level of progress due to the following barriers, among others:

- Lack of understanding of the NZEB specifics by the professional community
- Low motivation of the workforce.
- Low educational level of the blue-collar worker.
- Lack of experience and practice with nearly-zero energy renovations.
- Low level of penetration of RES technologies.

“Train-to-NZEB” project carried out in some countries of Eastern Europe has allowed improved capacities and skills of construction workers, highly qualified building professionals and non-specialists with decision-making capacities, together with a significant number of trained trainers through the creation of several training centers in the target countries (Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Ukraine), thus creating a collaborative international network.

The results of the project have shown that without market demand, driven jointly by public policies, financial incentives and active communication campaigns, there is no training demand.

The EDDIE project is intrinsically linked to this type of project since its aim is the foundation and establishment of a Sector Skills Alliance, to develop an industry-driven Blueprint Strategy for the education and training in the energy sector which is continuously affected by digitalization.