

EUCert

European Certified Heat Pump Installer Program

The European Certified Heat Pump installer programme (EUCert) aims at implementing a training programme for heat pump installers, establishing a certification program for this target group and disseminating the trademark „certified heat pump installer“. Key element of the program is training and identical examination material (in local language) for all trainees throughout Europe to enable the development of a comparable qualification and an easy mutual acceptance of certificate by different participating countries.

The core-training manual addresses relevant aspects of an efficient heat pump installation:

- Marketing
- Costs of a heat pump system
- Environment and ecology
- Geology, climate and national regulations
- Energy efficient buildings
- Operation principle of HPs and technical details of the heat pump circle
- Heat distribution systems and hydronic system integration
- Determining planning and installation of the heat source
- Operation mode and control
- Conducting a site assessment
- Installing HPs & auxiliary components and performing a system check
- Electrical basics
- Customer education and Warranty
- Maintaining a heat pump system
- Fault diagnostic, frequent mistakes and practical experiences.

Each training course consists of maximum 36 hours manufacturer independent education, including 8 hours of hands-on, practical training. The training can be complemented by manufacturer training. It is completed by an exam. Participants successfully passing the exam can then opt for a certification. If they fulfill the necessary requirements (vocational education/similar experience, participation in EUCert training, successful exam, work as heat pump installer), they are granted a personal certificate as proof of competence. The certificate is valid for three years and can be renewed.

The requirements of EUCert are 100% compliant with the installer certification foreseen by Annex IV of the RES-Directive (2009/EC/28).



Fig. 1: Sample of the EUCERT Logo

The project material was developed in the EU supported EU-Cert.HP project and is currently coordinated by the EHPA Education Committee. This Committee is one of the Technical Committees of the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA). Its members are the national coordinators of the training programmes. Key tasks of the Committee are coordinating the program throughout Europe and maintenance of the programme's content, namely the education manual, the certification requirements and the laboratory manual. The Committee is the forum for the national coordinators to exchange programme-related issues, to discuss future modifications and development aspects as well as to inform interested parties on setting up a training and certification scheme in their respective country.

The national coordinators (one body per participating country) set-up and overview training activities on national level. National coordinators can either be the national heat pump association or a cooperating institution, which they assign. They can offer training activities themselves or assign a third party – typically one or several training institutes – with this task. Each training institute must comply with the quality requirements of the EUCert programme. Each trainee with sufficient qualification that successfully passes the examination can apply for a certificate as „EU certified heat pump installer“ with the national certification body.

The Education Committee is administrating and developing the program and regularly updating the course material. Currently, approximately 1.500 installers are participating in EUCert courses per year. All certified heat pump installers will be published in a database on the EHPA website. It can be found at <http://www.ehpa.org/european-certified-hp-installer/eucertdb/>

In September 2012, Denmark and Poland became new members. Other recent developments include activities to establish the EUCert programme in Belgium, Hungary and Portugal as well as a re-organization in the UK. A further extension to other countries is planned and the Committee is currently creating an additional **E-learning** platform.

The group of countries participating in the EUCert-training program today consist of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden & the UK (see fig. 2). The programme is open to other countries. Requirements include the existence of a national heat pump association, active

EUCERT member countries 2012

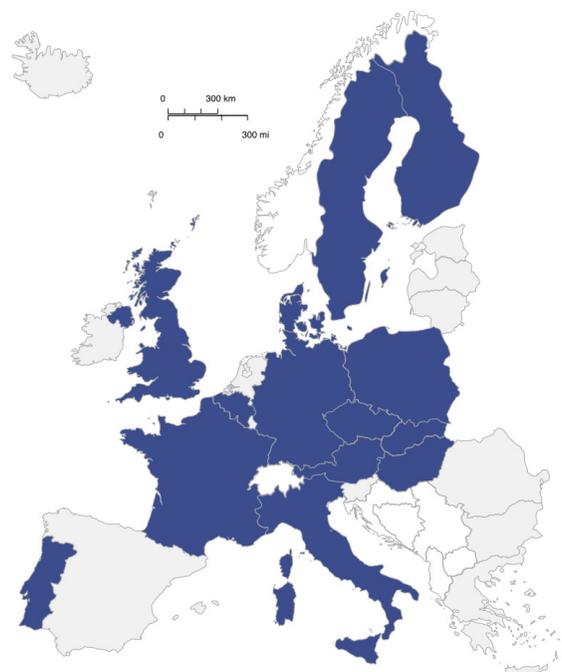


Fig. 2: Map of countries offering EUCERT in 2012

membership in the EHPA, a national education committee and education labs that comply with the programme's requirements. Interested parties should contact the project coordinator of the program, Pieter-Jan Cluyse <pieterjan.cluyse@ehpa.org> or the Chair of the Education Committee, Jan Lhoest <jan.lhoest@lessius.eu>.

More information can be found at <http://www.ehpa.org/european-certified-hp-installer>.

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V2013-3