

Advancing VET in the Building Sector: Analyzing and Bridging Training Gaps for Sustainable Construction

The GBCs and WorldGBC, as part of the TOP CLeveR consortium, have conducted an in-depth analysis of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) landscape for the building sector, focusing on whole life carbon, circular construction, resource efficiency, Level(s), and Zero Emissions Building (WCRLZ). This article provides an overview of the existing training courses, qualifications, and competence accreditation processes in each project country, compiled into interactive KUMU maps.

Training landscape

VET Governance and its structures has been an interesting baseline factor for the analysis. In Spain, Poland and Italy, responsibilities and competences for educational regulation are shared between national and regional administrative levels. However, in Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia, education responsibilities are centralised at national level.

Formal and non-formal VET for white collars is structured in a similar way across the six project countries. However, for blue collars there are some differences. Spain and Italy, few trades in the construction sector are regulated. Therefore, not all professionals rely on formal training as it is not a regulated requirement. However, there are mechanisms in place to accredit and recognise the experience of professionals.

Main lessons learned

The maps displaying the analysed training courses show that currently there is more training available for white collar than for blue collar profiles in the WCRLZ pillars. The most noticeable training gap shared by all countries concerns Level(s).

In addition, the courses are characterised by theoretical training and a greater influence (in terms of the number of students) on formal training.

The current existing qualifications for EQF 6-8 in the project countries do not cover WCRLZ competences, although in many cases energy efficiency and energy auditing qualifications have been included.

The role of GBCs and their network

Complementary to existing training, GBCs and WorldGBCs have a role in ensuring up-to-date technical content in line with European directives and frameworks such as Level(s). And they can also influence experienced working professionals, who are not found in formal training in many cases, and provide real-life case studies from the sector.

Importance of Recognizing New Competences and Qualifications

In this moment of transition when the building sector has to face new challenges, recognizing the new competences and qualifications is key to create relevant vocational training. Here, TOP CLever's contribution to advance the definition of such competences, centred on WCRLZ pillars (whole life carbon, circular construction, resource efficiency, Level(s), and Zero Emissions Building), can be of great value.

The role of GBCs at national, regional and local level with extensive networks can be fundamental to transmit it to key stakeholders.

Conclusion

The analysis conducted by the TOP CLever consortium highlights significant gaps and opportunities in the VET landscape for the building sector. Addressing these gaps through updated and relevant training programs is essential for advancing sustainable construction practices. Stakeholders are encouraged to explore the interactive maps for detailed insights into the VET landscape in Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, and WorldGBC.

Explore the Maps

Check out the joint map in KUMU here:

<https://embed.kumu.io/3dc67f90ee2740e713663abb28fdf02b?settings=0>

Check the maps of each country here: [Italy](#), [Spain](#), [Slovenia](#), [Poland](#), [Hungary](#), [Croatia](#) and [WorldGBC](#).