



### Last phase for the QualiCert Project

As already seen in the previous issue of the QualiCert newsletter, the project is entering the last phase of its activities and a series of so-called **implementation workshops** will be organised in order to make sure a common approach for certification/equivalent qualification of RES installers be adopted in each of the 5 countries initially tackled by the project (i.e. Austria, France, Greece, Italy and Poland). Examples on how it could be possible to do so are given by the QualiCert recommendations which will be presented once more during these events.

In order to provide our QualiCert readers with an overview of the status of certification/equivalent qualification of RES installers in the countries that will host implementation workshops, a series of country-related special issues of the QualiCert newsletter will be published before each event.

The first one presented the Italian situation.

This number is meant to give insights on the **Polish state of the art**.

Enjoy your reading...

...and do not forget visit the [QualiCert website](#) should you have missed the **previous issue!**



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### What is QualiCert about?

QualiCert stands for “Common approach for certification or equivalent qualification of installers of small-scale renewable energy systems in buildings”. The project started in July 2009.

QualiCert was launched in anticipation of the implementation of Article 14 of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC), obliging Member States to develop and mutually recognize certification or equivalent qualification schemes for installers of small-scale renewable energy systems (e.g. biomass boilers and stoves, solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, shallow geothermal systems and heat pumps) by December 2012.

The project has identified a number of key-success criteria that should be taken into account when designing a certification or equivalent qualification system. Any certification or equivalent qualification scheme needs to be embedded in the national training and quality framework of the Member State. Therefore, the development of one European scheme that could be applied to all EU Member States is inappropriate.

The approach taken by this project is in line with the requirement of Art. 14 of the European RES Directive asking Member States to provide such schemes by 31st December 2012. The project involves the national stakeholders of 5 core countries (Austria, France, Greece, Italy and Poland), the other EU Member States being involved through a wide dissemination activity.



## Poland: where we stand with certification/equivalent qualification of RES installers

Currently in Poland there is no certification system in accordance with the requirements of the Directive 2009/28/EC (the so-called RES Directive). This is the reason why the Polish Ministry of Economy is working on an Act on renewable energy and secondary legislation to this act, which will set out rules for certificates of RES installers. The proposed system of certification will be based on the criteria set out in Annex IV of the RES Directive.

During the QualiCert Polish roundtable (held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in Warsaw), Ms Malgorzata Turalska from the Ministry of Economy informed the participants on the planned scope of the system: certificates issued in Poland will be recognised by the other EU Member States and vice versa.

The certification process proposed by the Ministry will be transparent and clearly defined. In this process, an applicant for certification of the RES installer must complete the training, conducted by the recommended Training Unit. The training program is going to be developed by each individual training unit based on the guidelines issued by the Ministry in a secondary law.

The Ministry believes that the authority responsible for recommendations to training units and the approval of training programs should be the President of the Energy Regulatory Office.

In the designed system, the approved training program will be owned by the training unit, which has developed this program, so it will have a regional focus and at the same time will have to meet the guidelines of a national character.

In addition, the new legislation will include provisions concerning the duties of training units

equipment, allowing to carry out the practical training and follow up activities and education for installers.

RES equipment manufacturers, institutions and associations related to the renewable energy sector will be able to apply for the status of the recommended training unit.

The Directive 2009/28/EC provides that the training will include both theoretical and practical parts, leading to the acquisition of skills required to install the relevant equipment and systems, and that ends with an examination pursuant to a certificate. All these provisions will be implemented into the Polish legal act on energy from renewable sources.

The Ministry also believes that the costs for conducting practical tests would be very high, and therefore proposes to check the practical knowledge of the installer in the form of written tasks solution.

Training will be targeted at installers with some professional experience, i.e. with a minimum of basic vocational education or the equivalent in: sanitary, heating, or cooling energy. They should also have qualifications confirmed in the field of electrical engineering or have completed vocational training programs, corresponding to the three year period of training in the skills, referred to above, including the completed theoretical and practical, and proven skills in the field of electrical engineering. The scope of knowledge necessary to obtain the qualification will be determined in the Secondary regulation.

The theoretical part of the training will cover various issues, depending on the specialisation.

Visit our website [www.qualicert-project.eu](http://www.qualicert-project.eu) for more information!

More information on the proposal of the RES Act will be given during the Polish Implementation workshop, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 in Poznan. You can find the agenda of the event [here](#)

### The QualiCert implementation workshops

**Italy:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011, in Rome  
**Poland:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, in Poznan  
**France:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011, in Paris  
**Greece:** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011, in Athens  
**Austria:** t.b.c.

*Participation in these events is upon invitation only!*

#### Some sectoral updates

##### Geothermal energy

As already stated in our previous issue of the QualiCert newsletter, following the end of the IEE [GEOTRAINET project](#) - aimed to develop a European-wide educational programme as an important step towards the certification of geothermal installations - EGEC and the European Federation of Geologists hosted a workshop on the **14<sup>th</sup> of October 2011** in Brussels.

The main conclusion of the event was that all interested parties should aim to create National Education & Certification Committees, to provide a framework to further work, and a European level board will be created in mid-2012, composed of delegates of these national committees.

##### **Declaration on Geothermal Energy signed in Poland!**

A declaration on cooperation for geothermal energy in Poland was signed by the Ministry of the Environment in Warsaw in 2010. It was stressed that geothermal energy contributes to sustainable development based upon economic and social development, in harmony with environmental requirements, while increasing energy safety and reducing Poland's dependence upon foreign energy sources. It will also help the national commodity balance and the external account improve, while also developing energy industries. It was noted in the declaration that this will contribute towards creating additional jobs, and increasing exports in state-of-the-art technology.

"Although we have no geysers in Poland, such as Iceland has, Poland's geological structure provides the opportunities to using geothermal waters for economic purposes. The changes introduced recently in the Polish Geological and Mining Law are in favour of both the geothermal sector and the possibility to use the resources provided by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, and those make up an essential component of these opportunities" chief geologist Henryk Jezierski explained.

**Thank you for reading us and do not miss next issue on France!**