



TRAIN-TO-NZEB: The New Building Knowledge Hubs of Europe



The Train-to-NZEB project aims to provide world-class training on energy efficiency and RES in buildings, based on new training programmes, business plans and up-to-date training equipment for a set of training and consultation centers around Europe.

Its goal is to improve the knowledge and skills in the construction sector and to provide practical trainings,

demonstrations and comprehensive consulting services for design and construction of Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (nZEB) supported by RES, based on the Passive House concept.

The training centers (or Building Knowledge Hubs) will form an international network, providing trainings on the curricula developed under the European BUILD UP Skills initiative and by project partners, as well as continuous opportunities for exchange, updating and improving of the existing training programmes. The modern training facilities will enable the conduction of practical exercises in addition to the theoretical programmes already available in the focus countries. Find more at www.train-to-nzeb.com!



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Contents:

TRAIN-TO-NZEB: The New Building Knowledge Hubs of Europe

Our network: continuous exchange and knowledge sharing for innovative training approaches and solutions

How to train your dragon? No... How to set up your new BKH? We've got some of the answers!

Train-the-trainer course in Dublin: An experience worth sharing

Highlights from the ground

News from us and our partners

Our network: continuous exchange and knowledge sharing for innovative training approaches and solutions

Train-to-NZEB aims to transfer the knowledge and experience of leading research and training institutions from Germany (Passive House Institute) and Ireland (Passive House Academy and Limerick Institute of Technology) to 5 European countries – Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Ukraine. The consortium is lead by Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect (Bulgaria) and includes also the Bulgarian Construction Chamber and BSYS (Bulgaria), the National Institute for Research and Development in Construction, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development (INCERC), Business Development Group and Pre-University Education Foundation – Future (Romania); SEVEN (Czech Republic), Department of Civil Engineering at Ege University (Turkey), and Municipal Development Institute (Ukraine). In addition, the project team has already started to attract new members in the BKH's network, with the goal to stimulate knowledge sharing and to continuously improve the training programmes and schemes.



The project is a logical continuation of the first two stages of the BUILD UP Skills initiative, within which many EU countries have already developed National Roadmaps for improving the knowledge and skills in the construction sector and currently prepare curricula for specific trainings for acquiring of qualification on energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in buildings.

How to set up your new BKH? Find out in our Terms of Reference - publicly available!



Train-to-NZEB is proud to present its first tangible result - the publicly available Terms of Reference (ToR) for establishing of centres for theoretical and practical trainings on energy efficiency and RES in buildings, our, as we call them fondly, the new Building Knowledge Hubs! This groundbreaking document was developed by the Passive House Academy / MosArt (Ireland) - one of the world-leading actors in practical training on the Passive House concept and standard, conducting the design and operation of similar training centres in Dublin, London, Glasgow, New York and Sligo.

Probably the most valuable asset of the ToR is that the introductory description of the training concept is thoroughly expanded with detailed requirements for the demonstration and practical training equipment, enriched with plenty of illustrations and sample drawings. Additionally, the 5 training centres mentioned above are presented as case studies, providing examples of distinctive approaches which could be successfully replicated in different conditions and scenarios. And what is more - if you have further questions, we are willing to help! But first - don't miss to [check out our ToR here](#).




Train-the-trainer course in Dublin: An experience worth sharing

Train-to-NZEB organized a two-day train-the-trainer course in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by Art McCormack, co-founder and driving force of MosArt and Passive House Academy - Ireland. This very welcomed experience proved itself as a strong motivator for many of the participants, making the Train-to-NZEB concept much more clear and understandable, and the tasks ahead - easier to grasp.



And although two days would never be enough for such an ambitious undertaking, the team succeeded in setting its sights (and virtually, hands) on all the key concepts: general passive house principles, building envelope (insulation, airtightness, thermal bridges, windows), mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, RES in buildings, challenges related to building renovation, demonstration models, practical trainings set-up and exercises, training programmes and much, much more... Without a doubt, an experience worth sharing and replicating by all of you interested in hosting and conducting practical training courses. Get a glimpse at how we fared at [our events' webpage](#).

Highlights from the ground

-  Train-to-nZEB Ireland has lead the way in the first months of the project. [MosArt](#) / [Passive House Academy](#) proved why they are recognized the leading provider of practical skills Passive House training worldwide, and [LIT](#) developed a spectacular business planning template, to be used in BKH host countries. All that with Irish generosity, good humour, and spice!
-  Train-to-nZEB will give a live presentation of its aims and methods at the [20th International Passive House Conference](#) in Darmstadt, Germany on 22-23 April 2016. A full scale training model will be presented, so that international experts attending the conference and the Passive House product exhibition could get some hands-on experience in airtightness skills.
-  Train-to-NZEB Bulgaria relies strongly on the experience gathered in the BUILD UP Skills initiative. In the Pillar II project (BUILD UP Skills EnerPro), [more than 100 trainers were trained](#) on the basis of the distance learning platform developed by Passive House Institute and short training courses in 7 Bulgarian cities. These are the trainers the BKH will rely on.
-  Several successful events were already organized to promote the BKH concept, and news have already reached and found warm welcome in the Romanian building community. Things are quickly moving in the right direction: but you can already real-time information from Train-to-nZEB Romania on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
-  Train-to-nZEB partner [SEVEN](#) acts as the umbrella body for support and funding of the training center. They have established a large network of partners through two related projects ([ingREes](#), [PROF / TRAC](#)) and they are already stimulated to work together for the launching and operation of the BKH.
-  The BKH will be located at the [Civil Engineering Department of EGE University](#), using already existing classrooms, conference rooms, and office. Airtight rooms and demo models are under construction. Contacts with the local industry are initiated, as companies active on the market will help with demo models and will send professionals and non-specialists for training.
-  Energy efficiency is a social and political priority in Ukraine, and the BKH concept is gaining momentum. [Municipal Development Institute](#), implementer of the BKH concept in Ukraine, has joined forces with [Kiev National University of Building and Architecture](#) that will host the Ukrainian BKH. Fine more project news from Ukraine [here](#).

News from us and our partners

- ⇒ 25 years of Passive House: Building a sustainable future! The 20th anniversary edition of the International Passive House Conference will take place on 22 - 23 April 2016 in Darmstadt, Germany. Train-to-NZEB will certainly be there, with its own stand, presentation and poster. Find out more at www.passivehouseconference.org.
- ⇒ The next Train-to-NZEB project meeting will take place on 25th April 2016 in Darmstadt, Germany, immediately after the International Passive House Conference. No better place for discussions this spring... Follow our preparations and outcomes at our [Events page](#).
- ⇒ The [C4E forum](#) aims to create the Central and Eastern Europe's first community building event on energy efficiency in buildings. There are so many interesting efficiency projects happening in the region, and Train-to-NZEB is certainly one of them. We will be there, together with Maroš Šefčovič, EC Vice President for Energy Union, and Paul Hodson, Head of Unit Energy Efficiency & Intelligent Energy, DG Energy.
- ⇒ Specialized in training and consulting services for NZEB, BKH RO is developing as an independent center working in cooperation with different relevant market players. The development of specific training programs and services within Train-to-NZEB in Romania also relies on the experience gathered in the BUILD UP Skills initiative, taking into account the priorities set by the National Roadmap for Qualification of Building Workforce and keeping the continuity of the National Qualification Platform. A list of training programs to be delivered was developed and meetings with relevant stakeholders to explore potential partnerships were organized in the first nine months of the project.



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