

# THIRD NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016



## Welcome to PROF/TRAC's third newsletter!

This is a bi-annual newsletter with updated news and events on Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB) from around Europe in the framework of the Horizon 2020 project PROF/TRAC.

## WHAT IS PROF/TRAC?

PROF/TRAC is a 3-year EU funded project with 15 partners from eight EU countries, which started in March 2015. PROF/TRAC targets technical experts, architects, engineers and building managers involved in nZEB design, construction and management by developing a European training and qualification scheme for continuous development and up-skilling of all professionals.

Visit [www.proftrac.eu](http://www.proftrac.eu) for more information.

*If you are a training provider and you would like to join our CPD scheme feel free to contact us.*

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE THIRD TRAIN THE TRAINERS

Register now for the third Train the Trainers (TtT) training in Valencia 25 and 26 January 2017 on **our website**.



Watch the experience from the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, a member organisation of project partner ACE, who sent two of their CPD trainers to the second round of Train the Trainers in Zagreb in September 2016.

## LESSONS LEARNED 1: FINALIZING THE EU ROADMAP AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The results of seven national roadmaps have been analysed by PROF/TRAC partners ISSO and REHVA and discussed during the last consortium meeting in Zagreb in September 2016.

We concluded that none of the countries has a registration system for all professions involved in nZEB, except for architects. Therefore it is very difficult to estimate the exact number of professionals, who need training



on nZEB. For a better mobility of nZEB-trained professionals within Europe, we recommend to set-up a registration system in the future.

We also faced an issue with defining the in nZEB involved professions on a European level, because of numerous national variations in titles and work areas, e.g. technical architect, energy engineer etc. Thus we decided to rather work with groups of professions in fields, such as architecture, construction, and mechanical engineering. This way it will be easier to define the needed level of nZEB skills on a European level for each group.

Another lesson learned was the analysis of the skills mappings, which showed that the level of present skills is difficult to assess correctly, as it depends on the expertise and objectivity of the experts, who does the mapping. Our recommendation is to train experts more intensively before undertaking a skills mapping in the future.

Nevertheless, the seven national roadmaps are worth reading, because they illustrate how countries should deal with numerous national obstacles in reaching nZEB standards, such as cultural habits, tradition, legislation, tax system and financing. Almost all pilot countries point out the difficulties caused by the on-going economic crisis. You can find the roadmaps on the **project website**.

## LESSONS LEARNED 2: THE FIRST ROUND OF NZEB TRAINING PILOTS

The national pilots (training courses) are aimed at engineers, architects and managers. The specific role of the pilots is to monitor, evaluate and improve the approach of the PROF/TRAC project.

Consortium partner IVE, Valencia Institute of Building, developed a guide as the basis for the development of the National training programs. This educational guide has been available for training providers to be used as a support tool for designing the pilot courses. To date, the first round of pilot courses has been completed for Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and The Netherlands. The courses for Denmark are postponed to the end of 2016.

Project partner HKIS organised the course 'Interdisciplinary approach and cross-disciplinary team work for nZEB design' in **Croatia**. This course took place in three days by means of lectures and workshops, with 31 attendees whose professions were architects, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers and building managers. Participants were satisfied with the approach applied, appreciated practical examples and are generally interested to continue such education. Moreover they suggested including simulation tools and workshop examples with an increased level and complexity.

PROF/TRAC partner CKAIT organised the course 'Education nearly zero energy building' in the **Czech Republic**. This was a 14-day course with seminars and webinars in different cities with more than 760 attendees.



Partner CNAPPC conducted a five days course in **Italy** called 'Nearly Zero Energy Buildings - Planning for sustainable development'. This course used lectures, a webinar and a workshop, and was attended by 44 architects. There was good cooperation between participants and professors, good feedback from participants regarding the contents and typology of the lessons, and the lecturers. However, there was not enough time to organize a nZEB design project during the workshop and it was difficult to invite other professionals (e.g. engineers).

Consortium partner ZAPS held the four-day course with lectures, workshop and a tour in **Slovenia**: 'Are you ready to plan nZEB?' 30 practitioners (architects, HVAC engineers, electrical engineers, civil engineer) attended of whom the majority was already NZEB experienced. Attendees appreciated the value of the created teamwork environment and interdisciplinary approach, though suggested to shift the content to practical issues, such as building site cases and quality assurance in the construction stage.

The **Spanish** course 'How to design a nZEB' was organised by project partner ATECYR. The five-day training included lectures, round tables, teamwork, homework, and workshops, and was attended by 29 architects, MEP Engineers and building Engineers. Participants seem to be very content with the course and it obtained good evaluations. Furthermore, they agreed that the best method to teach is the use of workshop and collaborative work and to have a pre-exam to select possible participants in order to have the same level of those attending the workshops. Those, who do not yet have enough knowledge, could start by following the webinars.

### **MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGN OF NZEB: A SUCCESSFUL PILOT COURSE IN THE NETHERLANDS**

NZEB construction and renovation requires a large contribution from the building sector and is a challenge for the construction industry. A successful design and construction process towards nZEB standards requires innovative design processes and technologies based on an integrated design approach and multi-disciplinary work teams.



Project partner TVVL organised one of the national pilot trainings in the Netherlands in the summer. The trainers, who participated in the Train-the-Trainers session in Prague last February, implemented the training for 23 Dutch practitioners. The background of the participants was very diverse: owners, consultants and contractors with several years of work experience in the field.

Besides the nZEB boundaries, the main focus of the two-day training was on the principles and practice of a multidisciplinary design process. The groups learned how to work in multidisciplinary teams through case studies and by using tools such as the Morphologic design. The training used the exclusive learning database of PROF/TRAC. For this training several lectures were converted to e-learning modules regarding sustainable energy, passive energy-saving and working in multidisciplinary teams. The most important lesson learned is the fact that, for a better learning effect, the group should exist of the actual stakeholders involved in the building process, such as architects, consultants, owners, etc. and it is difficult to realise this.

The next training in the Netherlands will be held in March 2017, please visit this website to register: <http://www.tvvl.nl/cursussen/beng>

### **COOPERATION OF PROF/TRAC AND MENS PROJECTS**



The MEnS project, funded under the same Horizon 2020 call, designs and implements educational and training programs for building professionals in 11 EU countries representing different EU areas, ensuring that a certain percentage of the participants are women and unemployed professionals. This training uses the ECTS system that enables the recognition of proved qualifications throughout Europe.

<http://www.mens-nzeb.eu/en/>

Mrs. Olena Kalyanova Larsen from Aalborg University represented the PROF/TRAC team at the 3rd MEnS Front Meeting of Skills in Aarhus on 26 - 28 October 2016.

The meeting was held at **Navitas Science and Innovation building**, which is also known as a powerhouse of education, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, located in the heart of Aarhus city.

Each day of the seminar was dedicated to one of the three main topics:

- Smart cities
- Smart districts
- Case study buildings and holistic approach to renovation

The event was well attended by young professionals and students from the field of building design. The initiatives of the PROF/TRAC project were acknowledged during the presentation of the MEnS project. More information about the meeting and the program can be found **here**. The presentations are now available via **this link**.

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**PROF / TRAC**  
Open Training and Qualification Platform  
on NZEB construction and renovation

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