



# Sustainability Plan of the National Qualification Platform

(WP3 - D3.3)

Issued by ReSEL-TUC, Created 10-Oct-13, Last update 30-11-13



http://greece.buildupskills.eu























#### **BUILD UP Skills - GREECE (BUS GR)**

BUILD UP Skills is a strategic initiative under the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme to boost continuing or further education and training of craftsmen and other on-site construction workers and systems installers in the building sector. The final aim is to increase the number of qualified workers across Europe to deliver renovations offering a high energy performance as well as new, nearly zero-energy buildings. The initiative addresses skills in relation to energy efficiency and renewable energy in all types of buildings.

Since well qualified construction workers are one of the key factors for achieving significant contribution towards the 2020 energy efficiency objectives, in both the national and EU levels, the Project "BUILD UP Skills - Greece" (BUS-GR) addresses the specific Greek needs and aims to facilitate the Building sector Workforce Training and Qualification by developing and elaborating a National Qualification Roadmap, with the endorsement of the key stakeholders.

The specific objectives of **BUS-GR** are to:

- > form a national platform on Energy Efficiency and RES related training programs and qualification schemes for the building construction sector workers;
- > identify and quantify the need for qualified workforce in Greece in order to describe the current status quo;
- > design and set up a national training and qualification strategy (the Roadmap) up to 2020 for the achievement of national sustainable energy goals;
- > ensure the roadmap adoption by all relevant stakeholders in Greece via the appropriate endorsement activities.

#### **PROJECT PARTNERS**

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Renewabl	e and Sustainable Energy Systems Lab., School of Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete
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Labour In:	stitute of the Greek General Confederation of Labour
Technical	Chamber of Greece
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# 1.INTRODUCTION

The sustainability of the National Qualification Platform (NQP), after the end of the BUS-GR project is very important for the acceleration and effective implementation of the National Qualification Roadmap's action plan. It is critical that the members of the National Qualification Platform (NQP) will continue to collaborate efficiently in order to guarantee that the identified measures of the roadmap will be delivered.

The objective of the sustainability plan is to define a strategy and a realistic plan for further exploitation of the project's key outcomes and for keeping alive the communication channels between the NQP members; enabling thus the viability of the NQP after the end of the project as a planning and monitoring tool.

The NQP sustainability plan determines on how to keep the NQP vision clear and compelling, actions, main responsibilities, motivation and driving forces, indicators to track progress and milestones. For the enforcement and implementation of the sustainability plan the role of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) role is crucial. Under the appropriate synthesis this committee will be responsible to stimulate the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, the wide visibility of the NQP outcomes and the fulfilment of the roadmap's objectives and requirements.





### 2. THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATION PLATFORM

In the context of the ongoing efforts by the European Union to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and foster the penetration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the building stock, the European programme Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) introduced the **BUILD UP Skills initiative**. This initiative, co-financed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), aims at enhancing the continuous vocational education and training (CVET) of workers and craftsmen in the construction sector with a view to achieve the effective and proper installation of new energy efficient technologies and materials in buildings.

The up-skilling of the workforce in the constructions sector is a critical factor towards the achievement of the European "20-20-20" objectives. For this reason, the BUILD UP Skills initiative was promoted and adopted by 30 EU countries in the form of separate independent projects. Specifically, Pillar I of the BUILD UP Skills Initiative focuses on the composition and the functioning of the "National Qualification Platform" (NQP) with the participation of all the involved authorities.

In the frame of the "BUILD UP Skills – Greece" (BUS-GR), a very strong consortium, was formed composed of the most prestigious national organizations, social partners and academic institutions representing the technical, training and certification structures in Greece.

The list of partners of the Greek consortium (BUS-GR project) is:

- Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES), coordinator of BUS-GR,
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), more specifically the Decision Support Systems and Management Laboratory of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of NTUA,
- Small Enterprises Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants (IME GSEVEE),
- Technical University of Crete (TUC), Renewable and Sustainable Energy Systems
   Laboratory (ReSEL) of the School of Environmental Engineering, National Organization
   for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP),
- Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG),
- Labour Institute of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (INE-GSEE),
- Region of Western Greece,
- Centre for Educational Policy Development of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (KANEP- GSEE).

























Figure 1. Consortium of the BUILD UP Skills – Greece (BUS-GR) Project

Furthermore, a large number of stakeholders were engaged to supporting the BUS-GR activities and the development of the National Qualification Roadmap. Since the beginning of the project, the establishment of the National Qualification Platform (NQP) brought together all the key stakeholder groups, including:

- > Competent Ministries<sup>1</sup> responsible for the energy, labour and lifelong learning in Greece
- > the national competent authorities involved in the LLL and NQF
- social partners
- > federations and professional associations of buildings workers and craftsmen
- associations of companies engaged in RES and energy efficiency services and products
- > building industry's representatives and sustainable building experts
- > training providers and leading institutions in the continuing training system
- > accreditation and certification bodies

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Competent ministries", are the Ministries correspondingly responsible for the relevant areas, e.g., education /training, labour, energy, development, financial/funding (e.g.: MOF, MEECC, MINDEV, MLSSW, MINEDU).







To maximise the positive effects of a wide consultation and the engagement of the NQP members to the NQR development and endorsement, the BUS-GR partners designed and put into action a structured procedure of regular communication and cooperation, and an open, transparent and flexible consultation process assuring thus the participation in the National Qualifications Platform of all the Greek key stakeholders.

Thirty eight (38) bodies (Table 1), with 49 representatives, participated actively supporting the project activities and contributing to the achievement of the BUS-GR objectives; among them the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare, the Greek Manpower Employment Organization (OAED), as well as the collective bodies/associations of the Greek CVET courses providers.

It must be noted that apart from the BUS-GR project partners and the NQP members numerous other entities (regional authorities, development agencies, training providers and regional building workers/craftsmen unions) have been participated to the BUS-GR roundtables, consultation and info days in national and regional level and have finally endorsed the Greek Roadmap by signing a Letter of Endorsement.

Table 1. Bodies, members of the National Qualification Platform, Part 1

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
Small Enterprises Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants (IME GSEVEE)
Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG)
Centre for Educational Policy Development of GSEE (KANEP- GSEE)
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MINEDU)
Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED)
National Institute of Labour and Human Resources







#### Table 1 continued: Bodies, members of the National Qualification Platform, Part 2

Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies (HELAPCO)	Greek Solar industry Association (EBHE)
Hellenic Association of Insulating Material Companies (HAIC)	Union of Oil – Gas – Biomass Burners Installers "ESTIA"
Union of Hellenic Enterprises for Heating and Energy (ENEEPITHE)	Panhellenic Federation of Electrical Contractors' Association (POSEH)
Hellenic Federation of Aluminum and Iron Constructers Craftsmen (POVAS)	Panhellenic Federation of Glass Tradesmen & Manufacturers (POEVY)
Hellenic Federation of Craftsmen & Plumbers (OBYE)	Federation of Refrigeration Technicians of Greece (OPSE)
Federation of Greek Electrotechnicians (OHE)	Federation of Building and Wood Workers of Greece (OOXE)
Greek Association of Insulating Companies (PSEM)	Greek Association of Expandable Polystyrene (PA.SY.DIP)
Aluminium Association of Greece (EEA)	Greek Association of Aluminium Manufacturers (SEKA)
Hellenic Organization for Standardization S.A. (ELOT)	Hellenic Accreditation System S.A. (ESYD)
Hellenic Association of Accredited Certification and Inspection Bodies (HellasCert)	Adult Education Association (SEE)
Hellenic Association of Companies of Vocational Education (ELSEKEK)	Panhellenic Association of Vocational Training Centres (PASYKEK)
Hellenic Association for the CHP (HACHP)	Association of Greek Contracting Companies (SATE)
Panhellenic Association of Engineers Contractors of Public Works (PEDMEDE)	Federation of Technical Employees in Greece (STYE)
Hellenic Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (HAMEE)	Hellenic Association of Chemical Engineers (HACE)
Union of Hellenic Chambers (UHC)	Bank of Attica
Association of Greek Architects (SADAS-PEA)	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece (ACEG)
Public Corporation for the Construction of Hospital Units (DEPANOM S.A.)	School Buildings Organisation SA (OSK SA)





## 3. DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE NQP

The NQP institution was the catalyst for the development and endorsement of the National Qualification Roadmap. The process has followed seven (7) basic steps:



Figure 2. Steps for the NQP operation and maintenance

The National Qualification Platform (NQP), established to support the BUS-GR targets, has reached **38 entities as members** (their 49 representatives showed an active participation during the consultation process). The communication channels and consultation procedures, included targeted activities; NQP consultation meetings, bilateral exchanges, interviews, analysis of sectoral questionnaires, online platform to allow wider consultation with more stakeholders, regional working groups, roundtables, informational events, presentations in industry's trade fairs, roadmap's presentation at the national/regional/local departments of federations and regional authorities, and to the management boards of building workers associations.







The wide dissemination and consultation activities have significantly contributed to the Roadmap's endorsement. The endorsement testimonials of 44 key stakeholders are presented in The Section 7 of the National Qualification Roadmap and to the D6.1 deliverable.

From the beginning of the Roadmap's development, there has been a systematic effort to actively involve all the competent national/regional authorities and stakeholders, as listed above. The opinions of all interested parties have been taken into consideration and discussed during the NQP's consultation meetings; their suggestions have been incorporated to the final version of the NQR.

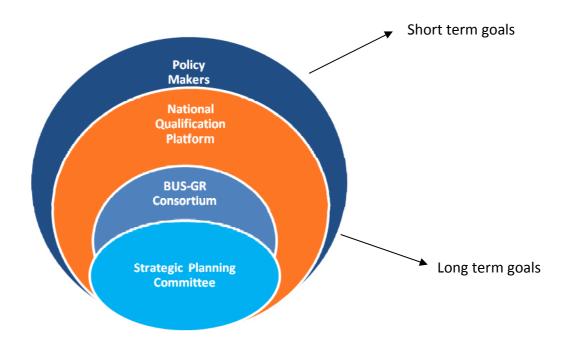


Figure 2. Schematic presentation of the operation of the NQP





Table 2. NQP activities during the lifetime of the BUS-GR project

Scope	Activities				
Identification and motivation of the NQP members	Definitions of the vision and mission of the NQP; clarification of different roles and assignments of responsibilities				
Define follow up activities and outcomes	<ul> <li>Definition of commitments, as well as the specific contribution of members, impact towards other stakeholders and policy makers</li> </ul>				
Constitution of the NQP	<ul> <li>→ Invitation to identified members; built the consultation process</li> <li>→ Kick off meeting</li> <li>→ Developed materials available to the members of the NQP</li> </ul>				
Operation of the NQP	<ul> <li>→ Participation in the consultation meetings</li> <li>→ Continuous consultation process (formal, informal), bilateral exchanges</li> <li>→ On line consultation platform</li> <li>→ Feed back on the national roadmap</li> <li>→ Contribute to targeted endorsement activities – promote the NQR endorsement</li> </ul>				

The constitution and operation of the NQP has been based on an open, **credible and transparent process**, aiming to achieve **consensus** on the suggested measures/actions, The above principles were critical to keep alive the NQP not only during, but mainly, after the end of the project.

The success of the strategy for the NQP continuation was that all members have invested to future perspectives for the development of their specific sector; this was more obvious when the binding EU policies and the urging deadlines set by the EPBD recast and EED towards near Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB), were explained.





#### 4. MISSION AND TASKS OF THE NOP

During the consultation process the members of the NQP have agreed on the priority measures and actions of the National Roadmap in relevance to the BUS-GR objectives. Those measures were assessed and prioritised based on their potential contribution to the achievements of the "20-20-20"national targets.

In the above context, the measures identified as necessary to ensure the required number of workers in the construction sector are the following:

M.1	Reintegration of the untapped - inactive labour force (unemployed, unskilled young people, older craftsmen, etc.)
M.2	Enhancement of the attractiveness and image of the professions in the construction sector
M.3	Motivation of young people to access the construction sector
M.4	Fighting the black (uninsured) employment
M.5	Provision of incentives to encourage skilled workers to stay in the sector

Regarding the measures to be taken in order to **upgrade the skills of the workforce in the construction sector**, the most critical ones are the following:

- M.6 Updating of the relevant occupational profiles and introduction of new ones (e.g. as for assemblers/installers of aluminum)
- M.7 Strengthening of the basic initial vocational education and training (IVET) of the labour force in the construction sector
- M.8 Formulation of the proper specialized lifelong professional training in the building sector
- M.9 Enforcement of efficient quality assurance mechanisms regarding the training processes and certification
- M.10 Development of a mechanism-framework ensuring the required number of trainers (pool of trainers)







The measures considered as essential for overcoming the institutional barriers and ensuring the sustainability of the initiative are the following; especially the measure M12 was included in the National Roadmap for this purpose. As concerns the sustainability of the NQP activities the following measures were identified by the NQP members as the most important.

- M.11 Updating of the institutional framework over the chain: Training Certification Regulation of profession & of Professional qualifications
- M.12 Development of a monitoring mechanism to control and retroact over the implementation processes of the Roadmap
- M.13 Development and practice of the appropriate instruments for the implementation of the Roadmap actions

All the above measures are supported by the following horizontal measure

M.14 Dissemination, acceptance and promotion of the National Qualification Roadmap scope, activities and outcomes

The identified priority measures focus on addressing the main obstacles to the enhancement of the professional skills of the constructions sector labour force and the accomplishment of the 20-20-20 national targets. The main barrier that might hinder the fulfillment of the 20-20-20 targets were listed by the NQP members as follows:

- Financial (cost of training / certification, lack of funding, absence of economic incentives)
- Insufficient institutional framework
- Lack of appropriate vocational training programs
- Lack of suitable infrastructures (appropriate training materials, inadequate facilities and equipment)
- Limited force of trained trainers (absence of appropriate training programs to train the trainers, insufficient number of trainers)
- Low interest for up-skilling (low status of relevant professions, insufficient added value for certified craftsmen)







# 5. MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NQP TOWARDS THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES "20-20-20"

The members of the NQP recommended a group of critical needs towards the national objectives "20-20-20", which are:

- Provision of financial and taxation incentives for individuals and businesses that implement green projects and adopt sustainable development and GHG reduction policies
- Revitalization of the investment interest on ES and RES projects
- Provision of incentives for the implementation of ES and RES projects at a regional level
- Establishment of regulations and requirements for the construction and the RES installations companies
- Adoption of regulations and requirements concerning the internal energy consumption of houses
- Modifications in the national plan for Energy Efficiency (EE) with a focus on the buildings sector - based on the 2012/27/EU Directive
- Changes in the national energy policy that will stimulate energy demand from RES
- Promotion of sustainable energy behaviour and lifestyle among the Greek citizens

Obviously the above recommendations, by the NQP members, are strategically aiming at the creation of a sustainable framework, having indirectly, but huge, impact on the training and qualifications of the building sector's workers and craftsmen. Since these are critical for the future development of the sector, these will be included in the short term priorities in order to keep NQP alive.







#### 6. NQP SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The members of the National Qualification Platform (NQP) expressed their strong willingness to continue its operation after the end of the BUS-GR project, as expressed at the M12 measure of the National Qualification Roadmap; this collaboration scopes to ensure the implementation of the Roadmap's priority measures, providing support and continuous feedback, challenging the decision makers and monitoring the action plan. SPC will continue to be the driving force for the NQP maintenance.

The aim of this initiative is to support the viability of the NQP after the end of the project's contract through a detailed and realistic sustainability plan; in this plan was agreed by the NQP members a realistic strategy for further exploitation of the project's main outcomes and for keeping alive the communication channels between the NQP members.

Table 4 presents the main activities, including allocation of responsibilities of the NQP, which were agreed to be implemented and supported during the post contract period.

Table 4. NQP activities during the BUS-GR post-contract period

Scope	activities	Bodies-in-charge					
Implementation of the M12 measure actions - NQP supporting actions							
	Exchanging / collaboration	SPC members: CRES, NTUA,					
Management of NQP	Continuous process (formal, informal)	TUC, EOPPEP, IME GSEVEE, KANEP-GSEE, MEECC, OAED					
Implementation of contracted projects within the frame of the	Working groups – dedicated consortia	All NQP members					
National Roadmap (BuildUp Skills H2020, NSRF, co-financed)	Links with the NQR priorities						
Dissemination - participation in	Presentation in targeted discussion groups	All NQP members					
events	Dissemination of the BUS-GR outcomes	All NQP Hembers					
Project Webpage/site maintenance	Continuous updating and promotion	CRES					







In order to maximize the commitment of the NQP members as concerns its sustainability, as well as the future performance of the National Roadmap a specific measure (M12) was included covering three groups of actions (Institutionalization of the NQP, establishment a monitoring mechanism inm the involved Ministries and composition of an observatory for skills enhancement in green technologies (Table 5).

Table 6 presents the responsibilities and driving forces of this measure (M12) and Table 7 the time plan for the period 2014-2017.





Table 5. Priority measure M12: Development of a monitoring, control and feedback mechanism for the enforcement and implementation of the National Roadmap action plan

D.12.1	Institutionalization of the NQP	2014	Competent ministries <sup>†</sup> , Collective bodies of employers - employees	NSRF / PIP
D.12.2	Establishment of an appropriate mechanism in each involved Ministry to monitor the implementation progress of the Roadmap	2014-2015	Competent ministries	NSRF / PIP
D.12.3	Composition of an "Observatory" for the systematic monitoring of the needs for skills enhancement and/or acquisition of new, in matters of green technologies	2014-2015	Competent ministries, Chambers, Collective bodies of employers - employees	NSRF / PIP

<sup>†</sup> By the term "Competent ministries", the Ministries that are correspondingly responsible for the specific issues related to each Action, e.g., education / occupation, energy, development, financial issues, etc., as the following Ministries: MOF, MEECC, MINDEV, MLSSW, MINEDU, etc, are meant





Table 6. Allocation of responsibilities as concerns the sustainability of the NQP

Action	Responsible bodies according to the National Roadmap	NQP members in charge	Driving forces
Institutionalization of the NQP	Competent ministries <sup>‡</sup> , Collective bodies of employers - employees	<ul> <li>Public supervised bodies: EOPPEP, CRES</li> <li>Social partners: GSEVEE, GSEE</li> <li>Vocational Training Actors (NTUA, TUC, TCG)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Sustainability of the mission of the bodies</li> <li>Financing support (i.e. NSRF / PIP)</li> </ul>
Establishment of an appropriate mechanism in each involved Ministry to monitor the implementation progress of the Roadmap	Competent ministries	<ul><li>Public supervised bodies: EOPPEP, CRES</li><li>WGR</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Sustainability of the mission of the bodies</li> <li>Financing support (i.e. NSRF / PIP)</li> </ul>
Composition of an "Observatory" for the systematic monitoring of the needs for skills enhancement and/or acquisition of new, in matters of green technologies	Competent ministries, Chambers, Collective bodies of employers - employees	<ul> <li>Public supervised bodies: EOPPEP, CRES</li> <li>Social partners: GSEVEE, GSEE</li> <li>Vocational Training Actors (NTUA, TUC, TCG)</li> </ul>	Sustainability of the mission of the bodies     Financing support (i.e. NSRF / PIP)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup> By the term "Competent ministries", the Ministries that are correspondingly responsible for the specific issues related to each Action, e.g., education / occupation, energy, development, financial issues, etc., as the following Ministries: MOF, MEECC, MINDEV, MLSSW, MINEDU, etc, are meant





Table 7. Time plan to support the sustainability of the NQP for the period 2014-2017

NQP action	2014	2014	2015	2015	2016	2016	2017	2017
	1st Q	2nd Q	1 Q	2 Q	1 Q	2 Q	1 Q	Q
	NQR - M12	2 actions						
D.12.1. Institutionalization of the NQP	x	х						
D.12.2. Establishment of an appropriate mechanism in each involved Ministry to monitor the implementation progress of the Roadmap	х	x	x	×				
D.12.3. Composition of an "Observatory" for the systematic monitoring of the needs for skills enhancement and/or acquisition of new, in matters of green technologies	х	x	х	х				
NC	P support	ing action	S					
1,Management of the NQP	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
2. Implementation of contracted projects within the frame of the National Roadmap (BuildUp Skills H2020, NSRF, cofinanced)		х	х	х	х	х	х	х
3. Dissemination - participation in events	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
4. Project Webpage/site creation and update	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х





### 7. CONCLUSIONS

BUS-GR partners and the national supporters of the National Qualification Roadmap have tried very hard to include the main priorities for the future and keep consensus in all stages of the project. It was discussed the idea to include quantitative indicators in the performance of the post-contract activities of the NQP. SPC, taking seriously into account the current transition period (determined mainly by the economic crisis and the new programming period 2014-2020) in the Greek and EU policy decided not to provide quantitative indicators as concerns the progress of this strategy.

Obviously the dramatic need of well trained and certified of the labour force involved in energy renovation/updating of buildings (i.e. electricians) or in the construction of nearly zero energy buildings (e.g. builders), as well as the need of upgrading professional qualifications and enhancing competiveness will be the main driving force in the next years to keep the NQP alive.

As a conclusion, the current NQP was constituted within the frame of the National Qualification Roadmap and consists of a strong team dedicated towards the upgrading of the skills and the qualification of the Greek labour workforce in the construction sector, aiming at the construction of new high energy efficiency buildings and at the renovation of older ones according to the newly established standards and regulations of the EU.





# **GLOSSARY**

Adult Education Association	SEE
Aluminium Association of Greece	EEA
Association of Greek Contracting Companies	SATE
Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving	CRES
Continuous Vocational & Educational Training	CVT
Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation	EACI
Energy Efficiency	EE
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	EPBD
Energy Saving	ES
Energy Services Directive	ESD
Federation of Building and Wood Workers of Greece	OOXE
Federation of Greek Electrotechnicians	OHE
Federation of Refrigeration Technicians of Greece	OPSE
Federation of Technical Employees in Greece	STYE
Greek Association of Expandable Polystyrene	PASYDIP
Greek Association of Insulating Companies	PSEM
Greek General Confederation of Labour	GSEE
Greek Manpower Employment Organisation	OAED
Greek Solar industry Association	EBHE
Greenhouse Gas	GHG
Hellenic Accreditation System	ESYD
Hellenic Association of Chemical Engineers	HACE
Hellenic Association of Companies of Vocational Education	ELSEKEK
Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants	GSEVEE
Hellenic Federation of Craftsmen & Plumbers	OBYE
Hellenic Federation of Aluminum and Iron Constructers Craftsmen	POVAS
National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance	EOPPEP
Hellenic Organization for Standardization S.A.	ELOT
Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies	HELAPCO





Lifelong Learning	LLL
Lifelong Learning Centre	KDVM Level II
Ministry for Development and Competitiveness	MINDEV
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports	MINEDU
(formerly the Ministry for Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious)	
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	MEECC
Ministry of Finance	MOF
Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare	MLSSW
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan	NEEAP
National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance	EOPPEP
National Qualifications Framework	NQF
National Qualifications Platform	NQP
National Renewable Energy Action Plan	NREAP
National Strategic Reference Framework	NSRF
National Technical University of Athens	NTUA
Organization for Vocational Education and Training	OEEK
Cretan Development Organisation (OAK)	OAK
Panhellenic Association of Engineers Contractors of Public Works	PEDMEDE
Panhellenic Federation of Electrical Contractors' Association	POSEH
Panhellenic Federation of Glass Tradesmen & Manufacturers	POEVY
Public Investments Program	PIP
Renewable Energy Sources	RES
Strategic Planning Committee	SPC
Technical Chamber of Greece	TCG
Technical University of Crete	TUC
Union of Hellenic Enterprises for Heating and Energy	ENEEPITHE
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