



The most important players in the Czech construction sector are setting up the National Qualifications Platform

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Last week, the most important players associating Czech construction companies and professionals, founded the National Qualifications platform. Its aim is to provide education to help workers so that they can effectively build buildings with almost zero energy. The platform is a Passive House Centre, Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians, Czech Green Building Council, Association of Building Entrepreneurs, ABF Foundation and consulting firm as EkoWATT, ENVIROS and SEVEN.

"In less than eight years, in 2020, we will need tens of thousands of craftsmen able to build buildings with almost zero energy demands. The demand for such buildings will ensure higher energy efficiency standards for construction, which Parliament approved last year," says Ing. Petr Sopoliga of ENVIROS, coordinator of the National Qualifications platform for the construction industry. "The problem is that most craftsmen do not have the necessary qualifications or experience. This must change. Therefore, we are establishing the National Qualification platform for the construction industry," says Sopoliga.

National Qualifications Platform will implement the National Plan of Education in construction sector towards buildings with almost zero energy, which was created this year. The plan was prepared by the consortium led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and associations Passive House Centre, Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians, Czech Green Building Council, Association of Building Entrepreneurs, ABF Foundation and consultant firms EkoWATT, ENVIROS and SEVEN. Establishment Plan was supported by a grant from the Intelligent Energy Europe under the initiative Strengthening Skills (Build Up Skills). The plan and the platform is supported many other associations such as the Association for the use of heat pumps, Czech Chamber of curtain walling, Czech Construction Trade Union or Association of Manufactures of Mineral Insulation.

The plan focuses primarily on workers who are every day on the construction site and are of key importance for energy-efficient buildings construction - plumbing-heating engineers, chimney sweepers and stove builders, electro-mechanics, insulators and inspection technicians. In these professions, there are about 60,000 people who will need to be educated. In addition, the plan envisages a large number of educational presentations for the general public.

"The estimated cost for implementing the plan are 775.5 million crowns, which is investing around 13 000 CZK per trained craftsman," says Jiri Karasek. Funding should be covered largely from the European Social Fund (47%), private institutions and resources of the participants (39%) from public sources (14%).

Immediate steps to implement the National Plan for Education will now work towards a national qualification platform in building that will be formed before the end of this year. The platform core will consists of members of the consortium, drafting the National Plan of education.

Key measures of the National Education Plan:

1. The creation of centers for lifelong learning for selected professions and building a model program of courses for workers, focusing on the new challenges arising from energy performance requirements for buildings.

2. Lifelong learning for each monitored profession - use craft manuals and curricula of the requalification courses, preparation for exams.
3. Amendments in catalogues of knowledge and skills on individual professions in relation to the implementation of the requirements of the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD II).
4. Creation of qualification and assessment standards for construction supervision, technical supervision and designers supervision.
5. Creation of a database of workers with registration of their completed training.
6. Use of quality assessment systems products and technologies for energy-efficient construction and making their results available for the craft professions.
7. Construction of a sample building as permanent and regularly updated exhibition displaying current technical solutions, products and technologies with possibilities of learning how to use them.
8. Increasing young people's interest in joining the construction industry (campaigns in schools).

Motivation for energy savings:

1. The prices of energy and resources constantly grow. The heat from central sources increased by 60% over the last 10 years, natural gas by 180%, electricity for households by 130%.
2. The price of suitable technologies and products for energy efficiency in buildings is continuously decreasing, and they increase their effectiveness. A good example is the development of heat pumps, which for the past 10 years became cheaper by about one third, while their efficiency increased. A similar development occurred with windows or solar panels.
3. High energy demand buildings are not only expensive but also detrimental to the environment.

Download:

The National Plan for Education in the construction industry towards buildings with almost zero energy consumption
http://czgbc.org/Download/Narodni_plan_vzdelavani_ve_stavebnictvi.pdf

National status quo analysis, training of construction workers the energy efficiency of buildings and RES
http://czgbc.org/Download/Narodni_analyza_soucasneho_stavu.pdf

More information:

<http://buildupskills.eu/national-project/czech-republic> and <http://www.build-up.cz/>
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