ehpa
european
heat pump association

EUCERT
European Certified Heat Pump Installer Program

The European Certified Heat Pump installer program (EUCERT) aims at implementing a training program for heat pump installers, establishing a certification program for this target group and disseminating the trademark „certified heat pump installer“. Key element of the program is identical training material (in local language) for all trainings throughout Europe to enable the development of a comparable qualification and an easy mutual acceptance of certificate by different participating countries.

The core-training manual addresses relevant aspects of an efficient heat pump installation:

- Marketing
- Costs of a heat pump system
- About Environment and Ecology
- Geology Climate and National regulations
- Energy efficient buildings
- Operation Principle of HP and technical details of the heat pump circle
- Heat distribution systems and hydronic system integration
- Determining planning and installation of the heat source
- Operation mode and control
- Conducting a site assessment
- Installing HP & auxiliary components and performing a system check
- Electrical basics
- Customer education and Warranty
- Maintaining a heat pump system
- Fault diagnostic, frequent mistakes and practical experiences.

Each training course consists of 36 hours manufacturer independent education including 8 hours of hands-on, practical training. It is completed by an exam. Participants successfully passing the exam can then opt for certification. If they fulfill the necessary requirements (vocational education/similar experience, participation in EUCERT training, successful exam, work as heat pump installer), they are granted a personal certificate as proof of competence. The certificate is valid for three years and can be renewed.

The requirements of EUCERT are 100% compliant with the installer certification foreseen by Annex IV of the RES-Directive (2009/EC/28).



Fig. 1: Sample of the EUCERT Logo

The project material was developed in the EU supported EU-CERT.HP project and is currently coordinated by the EHPA quality label committee. This committee is one of the Technical Committees of European Heat Pump Association (EHPA). Its members are the national coordinators of the training programs. Key tasks of the committee are the maintenance of the programs content, namely the education manual, the certification requirements and the laboratory manual. The committee is the forum for the national coordinators to exchange program related issues, to discuss future modifications and development aspects as well as to inform interested parties on setting up a training and certification scheme in their respective country.

The national coordinators (one body per participating country) set-up and overview training activities on national level. National coordinators can either be the national heat pump association or a cooperating institution, which they assign. They can offer training activities themselves or assign a third party – typically one or several training institutes – with this task. Each training institute must comply with the quality requirements of the EUCERT program. Each trainee with sufficient qualification that successfully passes the education course can apply for a certificate as „EU certified heat pump installer“ with the national certification body.
The Education committee is administrating and developing the program and regularly updating the course material. Currently, approximately 1.500 installers are participating in EUCERT courses per year. All certified heat pump installers will be published in a database on the EHPA website. It can be found at **www.ehpa.org/eucert/eucertdb**

Latest developments include activities to establish the EUCERT program in Belgium, Hungary and Portugal as well as a re-organization in the UK. A further extension to Poland and Ireland is planned and the committee is currently considering an extension into the world of **e-learning**.

The group of countries participating in the EUCERT training program today consists of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden,UK (see fig. 2). The program is open to other countries. Requirements include the existence of a national heat pump association, active membership in the EHPA, a national education committee and education labs that comply with the programs requirements. Interested parties should contact the committees Chair Jan Lhoëst <jan.lhoest@ode.be> or vice-chair: Gundula Tschernigg <gundula.tschernigg@ait.ac.at> or visit www.ehpa.org/eucert.

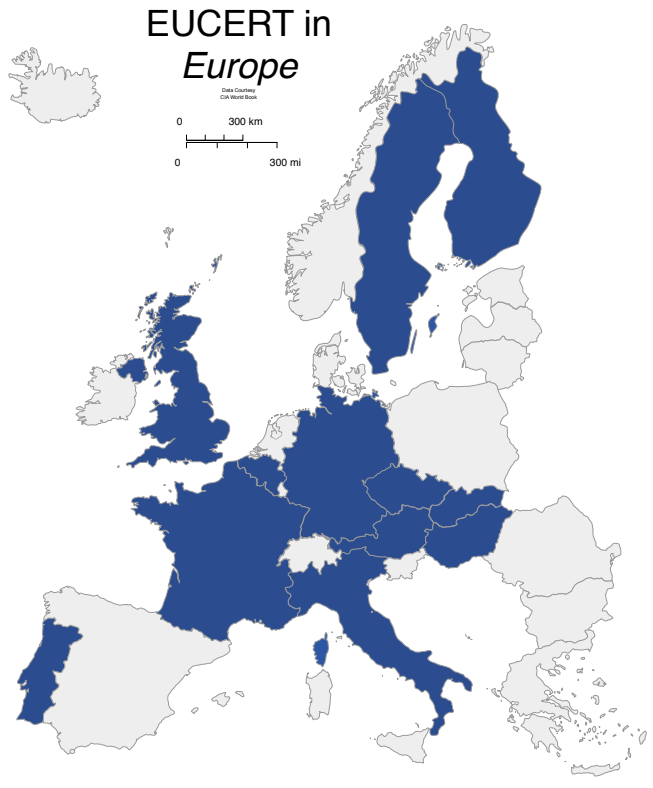


Fig. 2: Map of countries offering EUCERT in 2011

Example: EUCERT trainings in Germany

Bundesverband Wärmepumpe e.V.

The German Heat Pump Association “Bundesverband Wärmepumpe (BWP)” is the national coordination partner of EUCERT trainings in Germany. BWP in turn is cooperating with five training centers in Augsburg, Potsdam, Wiesenbusch (Gladbeck), Saffig and Karlsruhe. More training centers will be added in the future.
Trainings are executed in German language using the core-EUCERT manual extended by a national annex. In 2009 nine courses with a total of 87 participants were executed. 92% of all participants passed the final exam and thus qualified for certification. For 2010, 24 courses and approx. 200 participants are planned. The German heat pump association manages the certification system. All certified installers are documented online on a certified installers list (www.waermepumpe.de/fachpartner/zertifizierte-partner/eu-zertifizierter-waermepumpeninstallateur.html).
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