

Topic: Centres of Vocational Excellence for Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Housing (EXCEL4HOUSING4.0)

Brief description and main aims:

[EXCEL4HOUSING4.0](#) is a project funded by Erasmus+ aimed at building a transnational network of *Centres of Vocational Education* bringing together VET providers, academic and research entities, innovation and industry clusters as well as public entities coordinating energy efficiency and sustainable programs at national and regional level. This initiative seeks to address emerging needs and the “jobs of the future” for energy efficient and sustainable housing – *Housing 4.0*. To that end, the project will address:

- **Cluster 1** – Teaching and Learning: Design and develop innovative cross-border training and capacity building programmes and exchange practices aimed at fostering the transfer of smart and green skills, as well as circular economy methodologies, principles and tools for the improvement of the environmental sustainability of the housing sector.
- **Cluster 2** - Business-education partnerships - Develop VET-academia-business strategic partnerships oriented to co-develop and implement industry-relevant curricula, work-based learning opportunities, and upskilling and re-skilling programmes for VET learners, teachers, SMEs, and workers in the energy efficiency and housing sectors.
- **Cluster 3** – Governance and funding: Develop a collaborative and long-term sustainability framework, supported by a sustainable funding model for training and education in *Energy Efficiency Finance*.

EXCEL4HOUSING4.0 will contribute to the twin digital and green transition in the construction sector, while ensuring the delivery of the Green Deal targets and effective transition pathways for environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable housing.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The construction industry is facing a major skills crisis, with a growing demand for workers trained in energy efficiency, digitalisation, and sustainable building practices. By participating in this project, FIEC plays a crucial role in ensuring that workforce development aligns with the sector’s evolving needs. The project provides an opportunity to shape training programs that equip workers with the necessary skills to meet new regulatory requirements, such as those outlined in the EPBD (*Energy Performance of Buildings Directive*). With stricter EU rules on emissions and energy performance, construction companies need a highly skilled workforce to implement sustainable solutions. By actively contributing to this initiative, FIEC helps businesses adapt to these changes while ensuring that training programs remain relevant and accessible.

Beyond addressing skills shortages, FIEC’s involvement ensures that learning opportunities translate into real employment prospects and industry growth. Additionally, FIEC’s role in the project enables the industry to influence EU policies, ensuring that legislative frameworks and funding mechanisms support long-term workforce sustainability.

Actions and key dates:

February 2025 – Start of the [project](#).

2-3 June 2025 – Kick-off meeting in Brussels.