



## Welcome to SKILLSAFE EU Project Newsletter!

SKILLSAFE EU is an EU funded project, started in July 2024.

The project aims to develop a comprehensive, industry-wide guideline for the safe design, storage, transport, installation, inspection, maintenance, servicing and disposal of R290-based monobloc heat pumps for residential use. By bringing together leading manufacturers, industry associations, and training institutions, we will create a robust framework to upskill installers and safeguard our communities.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) to get the project's latest news and developments and stay tuned with our [SKILLSAFE EU website](#).

We hope you will enjoy the reading and... don't forget to share!



## Main Activities

### Joint Industry Expert Group Meetings

In March 2025 we have finalised the 6 meetings planned with the Joint Industry Expert Group to co-write the first version of our [Guideline on safe handling of refrigerants](#).

If you have lost this information, the JIEG is a group of experts, composed of around 60 representatives of the heat pump industry, such as manufacturers, hp components manufacturers, hp national associations, installers, building owners, certification bodies, etc., that have an interest in developing these standards and guidelines and are closely collaborating with the consortium to make it real.



The meetings have been an occasion to discuss the structure of the guidelines and the crucial aspects to include. The main outcome of these meetings is the **creation of new standards and rules for the handling of highly flammable refrigerants contained in heat pumps, to ensure that they are used in a safe and sustainable way**, to promote a positive perception of heat pumps in terms of their contribution to the move towards carbon neutrality, and to strengthen the heat pump industry.

Ultimately, this document will form also the basis of the training programme for installing and upskilling installers, which are now under preparation in the framework of the project.

### Publication of the First Version of the Guidelines



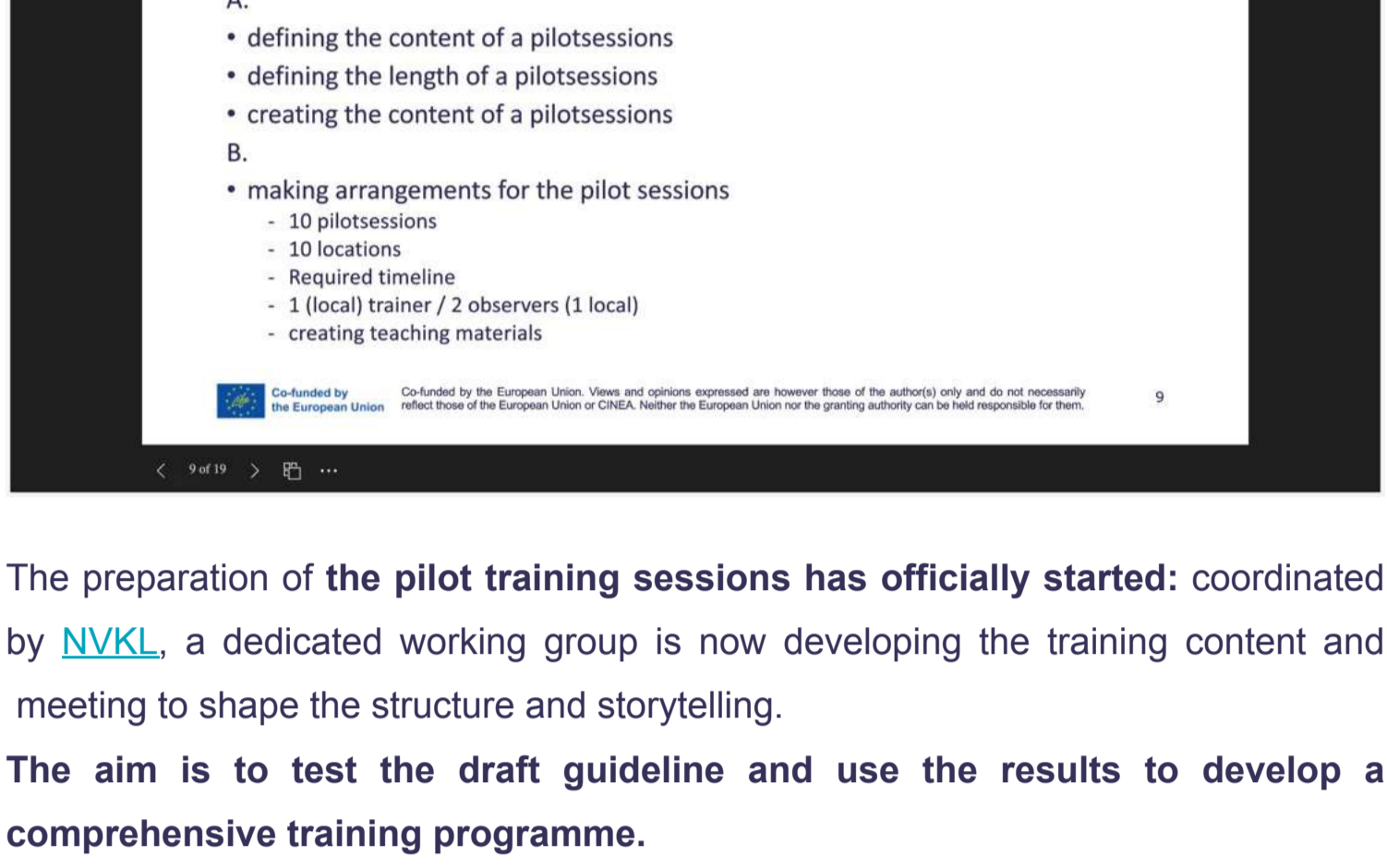
After months of hard work, the **first edition of our guidelines**, is now ready and available online. This document focuses on the safe handling of self-contained air-to-water heat pumps (AWHP) designed for outdoor installation in single-family homes, specifically those using refrigerants with higher flammability, such as R-290.

Following the adoption of the revised F-gas Regulation (EU) 2024/573, the market has seen a rise in heat pumps using non-fluorinated refrigerants. While these alternatives are more climate-friendly, they may also present increased flammability risks—making proper handling essential. **This guideline outlines key legal, normative, and technical considerations to support the safe and responsible management of these systems and is integrated also by national annexes.**

The intended audience includes manufacturers, installers, plumbers, and other professionals involved at any stage of the product's lifecycle—from production to end-of-life. While this document is not designed for end-users, we strongly encourage homeowners to consult with a qualified professional or their service provider for any questions or concerns.

[Download here](#)

### Pilot Training Preparation - Workgroup Sessions



The preparation of the **pilot training sessions** has **officially started**: coordinated by [NVKL](#), a dedicated working group is now developing the training content and meeting to shape the structure and storytelling.

**The aim is to test the draft guideline and use the results to develop a comprehensive training programme.**

A key objective is to ensure the training provides proof of competence while meeting diverse national health and safety regulations, also covering essential topics such as A2L and A3 refrigerants, as well as transport and storage.

The pilots will take place in live settings with proper equipment and PPE, starting from Q3 2025 to Q2 2026. While English will be the working language, content will be adapted in national languages, to ensure a broad participation and comprehension.

### SKILLSAFE EU 3rd Consortium Meeting



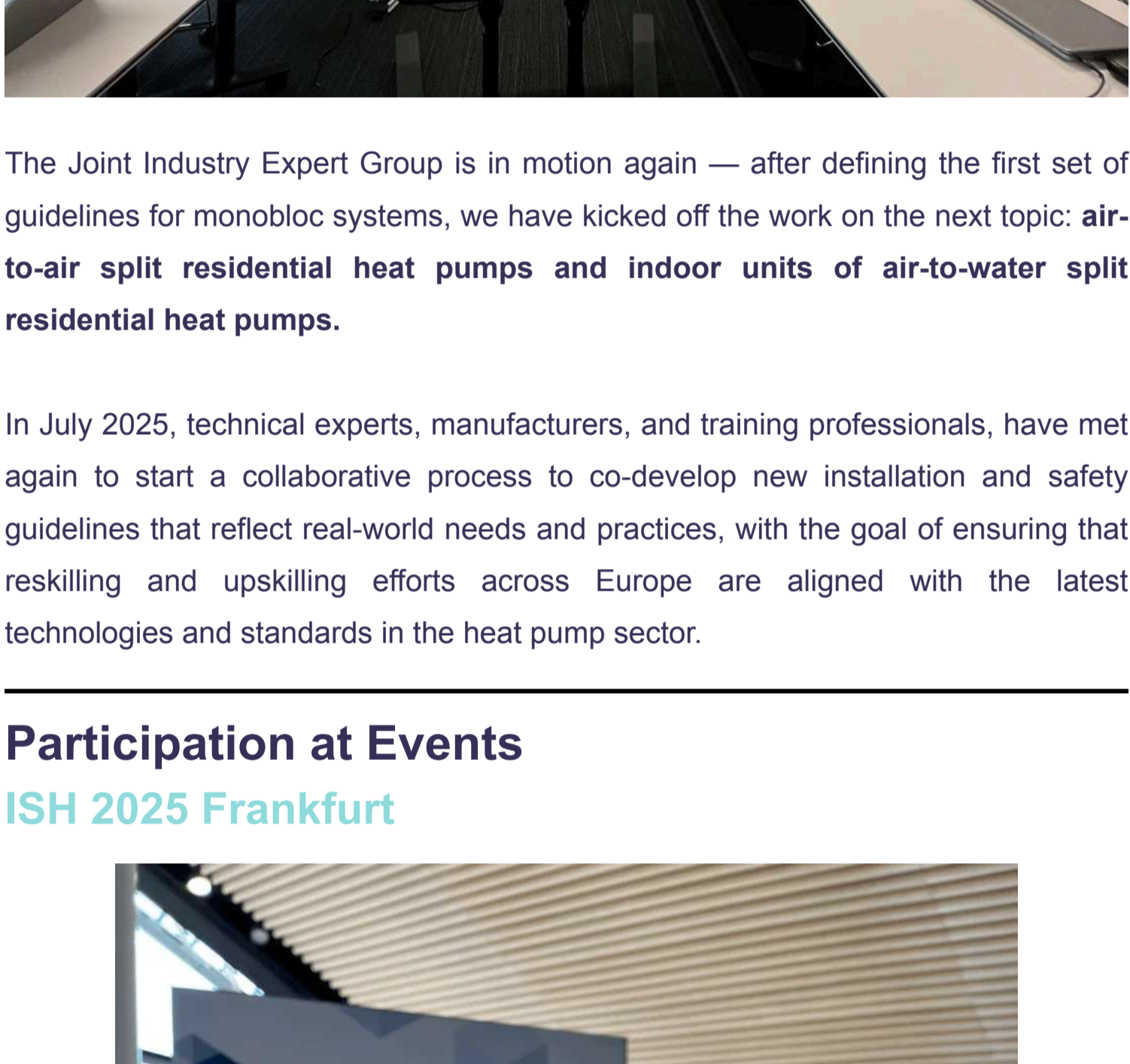
In July 2025, at the [European Heat Pump Association](#) facility, the 3rd Consortium meeting of the project took place.

All the partners gathered in Brussels and to connect in person, assess where we stand, and coordinate next steps.

During the meeting, the consortium:

- reviewed the advancement of all work packages
- presented and discussed the upcoming pilot training that will start after summer, which will bring the first set of guidelines into real training environments
- took stock of progress on the validation of the Joint Industry Expert Group guidelines, with a strong focus on on-site risks and the development of a dedicated on-site risk assessment process
- shared updates on the dissemination activities carried out to promote and present the guidelines across Europe.

### JIEG Meeting - Air-to-air split residential heat pump Guidelines



The Joint Industry Expert Group is in motion again — after defining the first set of guidelines for monobloc systems, we have kicked off the work on the next topic: **air-to-air split residential heat pumps and indoor units of air-to-water split residential heat pumps**.

In July 2025, technical experts, manufacturers, and training professionals, have met again to start a collaborative process to co-develop new installation and safety guidelines that reflect real-world needs and practices, with the goal of ensuring that reskilling and upskilling efforts across Europe are supported with the latest technologies and standards in the heat pump sector.

## Participation at Events

### ISH 2025 Frankfurt



In March 2025, SKILLSAFE EU took part to the [ISH Frankfurt](#), the world's leading trade fair focusing on the responsible management of water and energy in buildings.

Being part of such an important event provided the perfect platform to introduce our project to key stakeholders in the energy sector who came to our booth and to exchange ideas about the future of safety standards.

The fair was a hub of insightful discussions on the future of heat pumps and decarbonisation, aligning perfectly with SKILLSAFE EU's mission to enhance skills and safety practices in the growing renewable energy workforce.

## Heat Pump Technologies

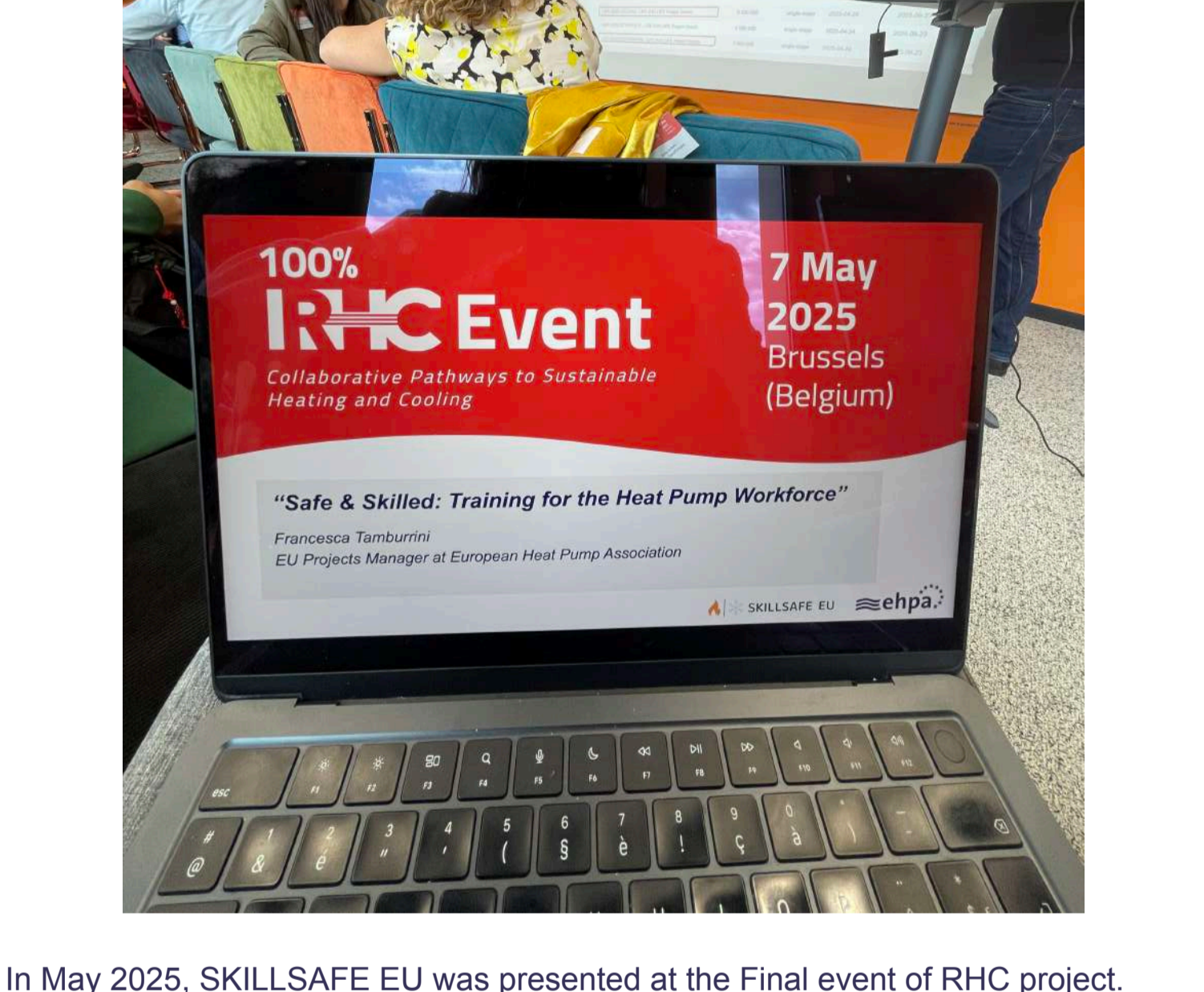


In April 2025, SKILLSAFE EU participated in Milan to the [Heat Pump Technologies](#), the first international exhibition and conference dedicated to heat pumps and related technologies enabling the energy transition. Organised by RX Italy at Allianz MI.CO, this event brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators to explore decarbonization strategies, market trends, and cutting-edge solutions.

Participating to such an inspiring event is crucial for SKILLSAFE EU, as it allows to connect with key stakeholders, share our project's progress, and promote our newly released Guideline for the safe handling of refrigerants.

## Presentation at Events

### 100% RHC Event 2025 - Annual conference



In May 2025, SKILLSAFE EU was presented at the Final event of RHC project. **SKILLSAFE EU** had the pleasure of joining the [RHC-ETIP Annual Event: Collaborative Pathways to Sustainable Heating and Cooling](#) in Brussels!

We were proud to present our project during the session on **"RHC Examples and System Integration – EU Projects Presentations"**, alongside inspiring speakers from across the sector. The event promoted a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges across the RHC sectors, facilitating the transition to a sustainable, decarbonised energy future and highlighted also the importance of **skills and workforce development** and their recognition as essential pillars in the transition to sustainable heating and cooling — a topic at the heart of our work.

## Decarb Cities 2025



In **May 2025**, SKILLSAFE EU was presented in **Krakow** during [Decarb Cities 2025](#), a key event focused on practical solutions for decarbonising urban areas.

**As part of a session exploring the role of clean technologies in the energy transition, the project highlighted how heat pumps can simultaneously drive climate action and create local employment opportunities.**

The discussion brought together experts from the energy and climate sectors to address the opportunities and challenges of transforming urban energy systems, with a particular emphasis on the **critical role of skills development** in making this shift a success.

In the context of **Poland's growing heat pump market**, the transition is not only a climate imperative—it also offers significant potential for **green job creation, reskilling and upskilling, and local economic growth**.

## SKILLSAFE EU Resources and Materials

### Website

Haven't checked our website yet?

The SKILLSAFE EU website has been launched on at the end of 2024 and the online platform is ready to be used as an informative tool for everything related to building a skilled, future-ready workforce in the heat pump industry.

Surfing on our website you will be able to find:

- Project description and updates
- Insights on our goals for upskilling and reskilling heat pump installers
- Opportunities to collaborate and contribute to the development of guidelines
- Resources to support innovation and sustainability in the heating and cooling sector

Visit the website, explore, and stay tuned for upcoming activities:

[Check out the Website](#)

### Online Technical Seminar



Meeting the EU's climate goals means **doubling heat pump deployment** by 2030 — and that requires over **500,000 trained professionals**. But how is the sector gearing up?

On **21 May**, EHPA hosted a webinar exploring how Europe is tackling the **skills gap** in **renewable heating**. From policy initiatives to hands-on training, the session brought together key players shaping the future workforce.

**Jacopo Piccagli** (Solar Power Europe) introduced the [Renewable Energy Skills Partnership](#), part of the EU Pact for Skills, which mobilises public and private actors to commit to reskilling and upskilling. He also spotlighted [RESkill4NetZero](#), a project (with EHPA as partner) piloting training across eight countries and promoting inclusive, future-oriented energy careers.

Next, **Agathoklis Krimpenis** (Hellenic Mediterranean University) presented [Smart-Pumps](#), a Horizon Krimpens project designing recyclable, smart heat pump components that are easier to produce and maintain.

**Nishant Karve** (Daikin Europe) then shared updates on **SKILLSAFE-EU**, which is creating EU-wide training and safety guidelines for propane-based heat pumps. With support from EHPA, the project will reskill over 100 workers and reach 25,000+ stakeholders.

Finally, **Melanie Auvray** (EHPA) emphasised the urgency of scaling training, highlighting that under **RED III**, Member States must ensure enough qualified installers. EHPA's Heat Pump Accelerator Initiative is already mapping 50+ training programmes across the EU.

**The message is clear: without skilled professionals, the energy transition cannot succeed.**

[Watch the recording](#)

[Download the slides](#)

[Read the article](#)

### Interesting upcoming events for the sector

- Heat Pump Forum 2025** // 23-24 September 2025 in Brussels
- European Heat Pump Summit** // 28-29 October 2025 in Nuremberg
- ISK SODEX** // 22-25 October 2025 in Istanbul
- REFRIGERA 2025** // 5-7 November 2025 in Bologna

*Stay tuned to know more about the next project activities, share the newsletter with your network and follow SKILLSAFE EU online!*