

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](#) o 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 November 2025 we have finalised the additional 3 meetings planned with the Joint Industry Expert Group to co-write the second **Guideline on air-to-air split residential heat pumps and indoor units of air-to-water split residential heat pumps**.

Since 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 aligned with the latest technologies and standards in the heat pump sector.



At the beginning of 2026, after a last meeting already planned, this new document will be ready and available online on our website - stay tuned for that!

Training Programme Update



The SKILLSAFE EU training programme has officially kicked off, marking an important milestone in the project's implementation phase.

Following strong interest from stakeholders, the delivery of the **pilot training sessions** is now underway. Coordinated by [NVKL](#), a dedicated working group is developing the training content and shaping its structure and storytelling.

The pilots are meant to test the draft guidelines in real-life settings and feed into the development of a comprehensive training programme. A key objective is to ensure the training provides **proof of competence** while complying with diverse national health and safety regulations, covering essential topics such as **A2L and A3 refrigerants**, as well as **transport and storage**.

The pilot trainings will take place in the different countries selected in live environments, throughout 2026, using proper equipment and PPE. While English will be the working language, content will be adapted into national languages to ensure broad participation and effective knowledge transfer.

Interested in participating to the training?

Contact the reference person in SKILLSAFE EU: miranda.groot@nvkl.nl



Participation at Events

Sigillo Sicuro Annual Event



On **Saturday 27 September**, SKILLSAFE EU participated in the **Sigillo Sicuro** annual event in Bologna.

The event brought together Italy's installer network to discuss heat pumps across **residential, industrial, and high-power applications**, as well as the professional development of **plumbers, electricians, and technical workers**.

SKILLSAFE EU presented its ongoing work, including:

- Guidelines for safely handling outdoor air-to-water heat pumps with higher flammability refrigerants such as R-290 for single-family homes ([view here](#))
- Guidelines currently under development
- Upcoming **training programmes for installers**, starting in 2026

The event provided a valuable opportunity for discussion and knowledge exchange, reinforcing the importance of **developing skills for safe and sustainable heat pump installations**.

Industrial Heat Pumps International Conference



At the beginning of November, SKILLSAFE EU participated at the **Industrial Heat Pumps International Conference (IHP Prague)**: a key Central European event bringing together experts shaping the future of heat electrification and industrial decarbonisation.

During his presentation on the latest regulatory developments, our colleague **Marcin Krupski** referenced the project while discussing the **upcoming PFAS restriction**, its **expected timeline**, and the **implications for refrigerant availability, technology readiness, and industry preparedness**.

He also mentioned the guidelines we have developed for the safe handling of R290 (propane) refrigerant, underscoring the importance of training and safety frameworks to ensure a skilled workforce capable of supporting the transition to natural refrigerants.

ATMOsphere Euro Summit



At the end of November, at the **ATMOsphere Euro Summit** in Padova, the SKILLSAFE EU project, represented by **Nishant Karve** and **Marcin Krupski**, participated in discussions on market trends, policy developments, refrigerants, and clean cooling technologies, including heat pumps.

During the event, SKILLSAFE EU's work on **training guidelines for the safe installation and handling of propane (R290) heat pumps** was highlighted during the CAREL training session. Special thanks to **Miriam Solana Ciprés** and her team for providing an insightful tour of their laboratory.

The project looks forward to continuing the dialogue with industry stakeholders to refine the guidelines and support the sector in developing the **skills required for the heat pump transition**.

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.

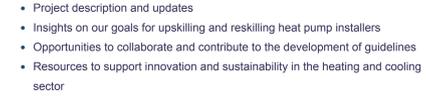
Surfing on our website you will be able to find:

- 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



As Europe accelerates its shift to climate neutrality, heat pumps are becoming a key technology for decarbonising heating, but technology alone is not enough. A skilled workforce is essential to ensure safe, efficient installations across diverse buildings and climates.

This was the focus of the webinar hosted on the 11 December "**Heat Pump Skills in Action: Safety, Craft, and Planning for the Energy Transition**", hosted by EHPA and co-organised with the LIFE projects SKILLSAFE EU, **HeatCraftHP**, and **KnowHowHP**. Experts highlighted the importance of upskilling installers to meet growing technical demands and ensure safe handling of new refrigerants such as R290.

Speakers also discussed the EU's strategy for skills development, including **Net Zero Industry Academies**, the **Pact for Skills**, and the **European Skills Observatory**, which aim to align training with industry needs and create a strong green skills ecosystem.

The three LIFE projects showcased practical approaches: SKILLSAFE EU is developing guidelines and training for safe R290 installations; **HeatCraftHP** is providing digital tools to strengthen practical installation skills and system design understanding; and **KnowHowHP** focuses on integrated planning for complex multi-family buildings; to make **heat pumps** viable across Europe.

The webinar underscored a shared vision: **Europe's heat pump transition is a skills transition**. Ensuring safety, technical expertise, and integrated planning are key to deploying heat pumps efficiently and meeting climate goals.

[Watch the recording](#)

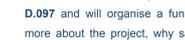
[Download the slides](#)

[Read the article](#)

Interesting upcoming events for the sector

- **VSK+E Fair 2026** // 3-6 February 2026 in Jaarbeurs Utrecht
 - **Here, NVKL will set up a SKILLSAFE EU ZONE in hall 11, stand D.097** and will organise a fun workshop where participants will hear more about the project, why safety is so important when using R290 and the possibilities of a propane installation. Afterwards, participants will receive a proof of participation to take home and the opportunity to register for a free training.
- **Mostra Convegno Expocomfort** // 24-27 March 2026 in Milano
- **15th IEA Heat Pump Conference** // 26-29 May 2026 in Vienna
- **EUSEW** // 9-11 June 2026 in Brussels

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



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