



Welcome to SKILLSAFE EU Project Newsletter!

Over the past months, the project has continued to make progress in promoting the safe deployment of propane heat pumps across Europe. In this edition, we share the latest project developments, recent events, new resources, and upcoming activities supporting the development of practical safety guidelines and skills for the sector.

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

Training Programme Update

The SKILLSAFE EU pilot training programme has reached an important milestone with the successful delivery of training sessions in different countries:

- Spain,
- Greece,
- Italy
- Netherlands.

Designed to test the draft safety guidelines in real-life environments, the pilots brought together trainers and professionals to validate both the technical content and training methodology. The sessions covered key aspects of the safe installation, operation and maintenance of R-290 heat pumps, while addressing national health and safety requirements, the handling of A2L and A3 refrigerants, and transport and storage procedures.

The feedback gathered from participants and trainers will now be used to further refine the guidelines and training materials, supporting the development of a comprehensive European training programme that ensures a consistent and high level of competence across countries.

Thank you to all the experts who supported our work by delivering lectures, and to all the installers who trusted us and attended the course!



SKILLS4HP Cluster launch

SKILLSAFE EU has joined forces with four other EU-funded LIFE projects, [HeatCraftHP](#), [install.res](#), [Re-energize](#) and KnowHowHP, to launch the **SKILLS4HP Cluster**.

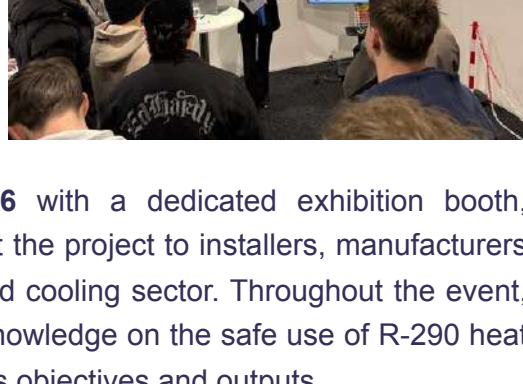
This new collaboration aims to maximise the impact of individual projects by fostering knowledge exchange, coordinating dissemination activities, and promoting synergies across initiatives working on skills development for the heat pump sector.

By bringing together complementary expertise and experiences, the cluster will help accelerate the upskilling and reskilling of professionals across Europe, supporting the deployment of safe, high-quality heat pump installations. As demand for heat pumps continues to grow, ensuring a skilled workforce is essential to achieving Europe's energy transition goals!



Participation at Events

VSK 2026



SKILLSAFE EU participated in **VSK 2026** with a dedicated exhibition booth, providing an excellent opportunity to present the project to installers, manufacturers and other professionals from the heating and cooling sector. Throughout the event, the booth served as a hub for exchanging knowledge on the safe use of R-290 heat pumps and raising awareness of the project's objectives and outputs.

A key highlight was the delivery of **daily hands-on training sessions** on safe working practices with R-290, by **NVKL**. The sessions attracted strong interest from visitors, offering practical guidance while encouraging discussions on safety, competence development and best practices, confirming the growing demand for high-quality training and underlined the importance of project like ours.

Refrigeration and Heat Pump Forum 2026



In **April 2026**, the SKILLSAFE EU project was represented at the **Refrigeration and Heat Pump Forum 2026** in Copenhagen, by **EHPA**.

During the presentation, the objectives and ongoing activities of the SKILLSAFE EU project where presented, while addressing the implications of the proposed **PFAS restriction** for heat pump deployment. The importance also highlighted the importance of the **SEAC public consultation** in clarifying key technical aspects and ensuring that existing technologies and market readiness are accurately reflected in the regulatory process.

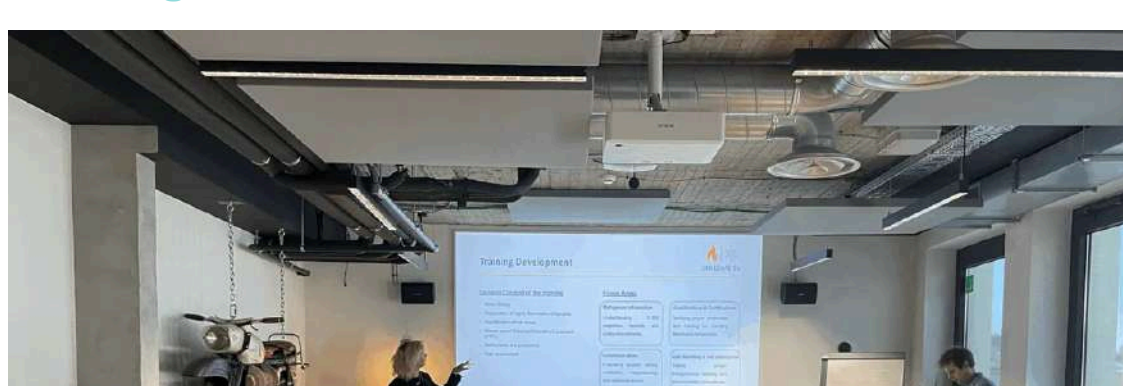


SKILLSAFE EU was presented at the **15th IEA Heat Pump Conference** in Vienna, in May 2026.

The project's work has been showcased during a session on communication, information and education by **Daikin**. The presentation highlighted the growing importance of upskilling and reskilling installers and technicians as the sector transitions towards refrigerants with higher flammability.

Particular attention was given to the SKILLSAFE EU Guidelines, developed in collaboration with the Joint Industry Expert Group, and the pilot training programme designed to validate them in real-life settings.

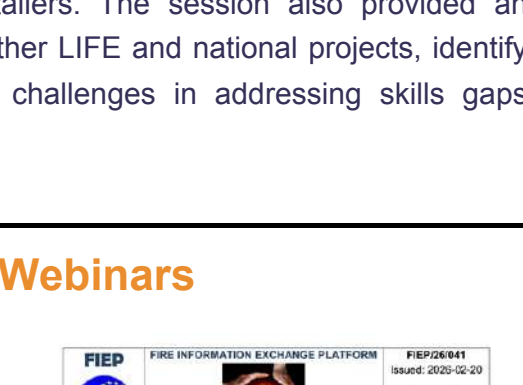
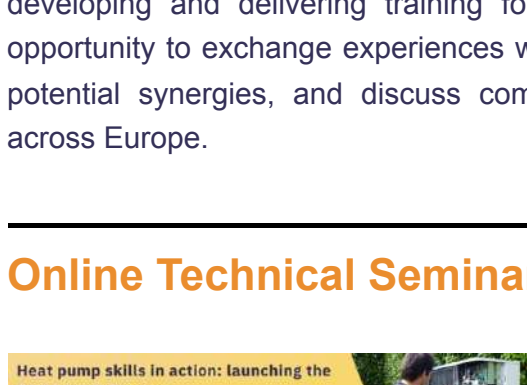
17th BUILD UP Skills European Exchange Meeting



On **21–22 April 2026**, SKILLSAFE EU participated in the **17th BUILD UP Skills European Exchange Meeting**, organised by CINEA in Brussels. The event brought together European and national initiatives to exchange experiences and discuss how to strengthen skills development for the clean energy transition.

During the dedicated session on heat pumps, the project presented its work on developing and delivering training for installers. The session also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences with other LIFE and national projects, identify potential synergies, and discuss common challenges in addressing skills gaps across Europe.

Online Technical Seminar & Webinars



SKILLSAFE EU participated in the webinar **"Heat pump skills in action: Launching the SKILLS4HP Cluster"**, bringing together five EU projects working to strengthen skills development for the heat pump sector.

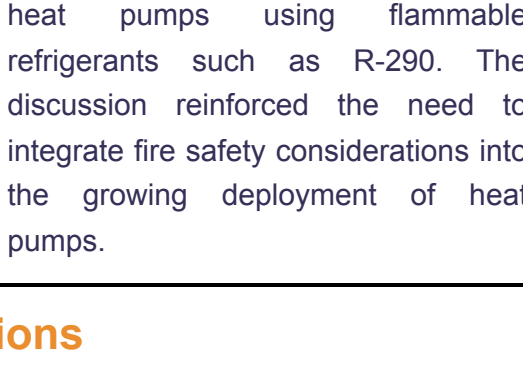
During the event, **CSIM** presented the project's latest work on on-site risk assessment, focusing on the identification and management of risks during the installation and maintenance of **R-290 heat pumps**.

The webinar also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices with the other cluster members, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in developing a skilled workforce.

SKILLSAFE EU was pleased to contribute to a webinar organised under the **Fire Information Exchange Platform**, bringing together experts to discuss fire safety in the context of Europe's energy transition.

During the webinar, **EHPA** presented the **SKILLSAFE EU Guidelines** and highlighted the importance of proper training, clear safety procedures and well-defined responsibilities for the safe installation and maintenance of heat pumps using flammable refrigerants such as R-290. The discussion reinforced the need to integrate fire safety considerations into the growing deployment of heat pumps.

SKILLSAFE EU last publications



SKILLSAFE EU has been featured in **EU Research**, showcasing the project's work to improve the safe handling of R-290 heat pumps through practical guidelines and dedicated training. The article highlights the importance of building installers' skills to support the safe and widespread adoption of sustainable heating technologies across Europe.

👉 **Read the full article here:** <https://issuu.com/euresearcher/docs/skillsafe-eu>

👉 **Read the full interview here:** <https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/>

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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