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Skills-Network Solarenergy

A transnational
solar-company-network

with the focus on European skills
development and qualification for
service and maintenance in the solar
energy-sector



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Background

Since the EU agreed to raise the European Union's share of renewable energies to 20% by 2020, new challenges have emerged especially in the solar energy sector.

However, the development of skills and competences of workers are far behind the requirements of this growing sector. Furthermore, this process is still national in scope and unaligned with the European market. This creates barriers to achieve the EU's targets.

Common VET-qualifications e.g. for electricians developed at a local or national level, are not sufficient in order to meet the needs for a systematic approach in VET for the growing solar-sector.



PV-Anlage in Albuquerque

SolTec

The project SolTec (Nov. 2009 - Oct. 2011) was initiated in 2009 by the German and Spanish project partners under the European Lifelong Learning Programme Leonardo Da Vinci (Development of Innovation).

SolTec

... aims to close the gap between the growth of the solar market in Europe and insufficient skills development of solar workers.

... intends to deliver a European Qualification Standard, so that solar workers in future will have the expertise to work with all solar components in a way which is responsive to manufacturing companies' expectations, whilst providing full warranty to all components.

... improves the quality of the VET-system by incorporating the common European tools (learning outcomes, EQF, etc.),

... promotes the transparency and recognition of competences and (as a consequence of this) the workers mobility.

Skills Network

The project SolTec is the starting point to set up an industry-based skills network in order to promote further skills-development needs in the solar-sector. During the project it is intended to create the basis for the further cooperation of the network partners.

A network on qualifications and skills-development for the growing solar-energy market will open the possibility for skills-development and Lifelong Learning and will give maximum benefit to solar-companies and their solar-staff.

The project SolTec creates the basis

SolTec offers needs-oriented and developed VET-contents for the currently most demanded qualifications of solar energy-providers. The content is a result of interviews undertaken with solar energy-providers.

SolTec offers a first step to a systematic development of European qualifications in VET for the growing solar-sector by using the common European tools (learning outcomes, EQF, etc.).

SolTec will promote the mobility of solar-workers in the internationally growing solar-market and the transparency and recognition of competences in the European countries.

SolTec and its network builds a platform for companies, VET-institutions and employees of different European countries and offers the possibility for permanent adaptations and improvements.