Renewable Energy Skills Partnership

Statement on European Net-Zero Academies

Focussing on targets and needs

1. The European Net-Zero Academies as proposed by the European Commission in the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA) should **target and help accelerate training across the EU, in order to ensure that quality jobs are available to reach the EU 2030 and 2050 energy and climate targets**.

2. The European Net-Zero Academies should **address skills shortages identified by a comprehensive EU-wide review of the current and foreseeable skill needs** to deploy net-zero technologies enshrined by the NZIA.

Strengthening the existing and prioritising the new

3. European Net-Zero Academies **should be built on existing sectoral, national, regional and local initiatives**, to identify job shortages, accelerate the reskilling and upskilling of the workforce, and set-up successful education programmes, among others. **Local specificities** (e.g. climate, topography, renewable resource potential, cultural conditions, characteristics of the building stock) **should be acknowledged** to maximise results.

4. When establishing new Academies, the European Commission should **prioritise those strategic sectors where skills shortages are particularly critical** and are affecting the deployment of the related net-zero technology, renewable energy and sustainable solutions. The EC should also **consider the needs of all actors of those sectors** being mindful of their size and organisational format.

A comprehensive, open and forward-looking approach

5. The European Net-Zero Academies should foster **a comprehensive framework encompassing the mapping of all the abovementioned net-zero skills initiatives**, providing added value to those that are delivering results without creating any extra administrative burden. The framework should also help identify strategic locations for the creation of new training centres.

6. European Net-Zero Academies should **strengthen synergies across sustainable net-zero technologies by supporting a multi-technology approach.** Ensuring that workers are qualified to deal with different types of renewable energy systems and combinations of net-zero technologies will be both more cost-effective (affordable, competitive and convenient) to end-users, and more efficient from an energy system perspective.

7. **The European Net-Zero Academies should help identify emerging topics for trainings**, such as cross-cutting issues (e.g. skills or sustainability certification, for permitting procedures), issues arising from technological, educational, societal developments, and increased integration between sectors and technologies, or requiring lifelong training.

An inclusive governance

8. **Industry and relevant stakeholders, such as the Renewable Energy Skills Partnership, should be an indispensable part of the governance mechanism** of the European Net-Zero Academies framework (the Net-Zero Europe Platform). The Platform should start its activities as soon as possible, set the timeline for implementation of the Academies and clarify how they will be operated.

Policy-makers' support through consistent funding and better recognition

9. **Member States and the European Commission** should provide effective support to the European Net-Zero Academies by providing the **necessary funding, consistent with the ambition** to see the initiative and implementing actions bring quick, meaningful and lasting results across the EU (e.g. financing of large awareness-raising campaigns, new programmes, training facilities, etc.).

10. Net-Zero Academies should also strive for **cross-border recognition of qualifications and certifications** for the professions that are important for net-zero industries, in order to **support cross-border mobility** of workers wherever relevant.

About the Renewable Energy Skills Partnership

The Renewable Energy Skills Partnership brings together stakeholders from the entire spectrum of the Renewable Energy value chain. It gathers organisations involved in the identification and analysis of needs and solutions for skills in the renewable energy sector, the development, implementation, promotion or financing of educational and training programmes, frameworks, institutions, as well as of related policies, materials, technologies, and services.

It will ensure sustainable and systematic sectoral cooperation to have a well-trained and sufficient renewable energy workforce. This a major factor of competitiveness for the renewable energy ecosystem and a decisive condition for the manufacturing, deployment and management of Renewable energy technologies needed to achieve the EU energy and climate objectives.

According to the EurObserv'ER report, the total direct and indirect employment from the renewable sectors is estimated at 1.47 million full-time equivalents by 2021, 12% higher than in 2020. This number is set to increase following the accelerated deployment of clean energy solutions. Accounting for all renewable energy sectors, achieving our REPowerEU targets will require the creation of over **3.5 million jobs by 2030**. This challenge is of gigantic scale and requires urgent action from all stakeholders and policymakers across the continent.

The Partnership will provide **understanding of the sector** and skills analytics. It will contribute to the proper skilling of **individuals entering the renewable energy workforce**, so they are ready to face a rapidly growing and constantly evolving environment. It will **promote quality careers** within the RE sector following values of

the Just Transition and **reinforce the sector attractiveness** for workers. It also aims at **providing guidance and recommendations to public authorities.**

List of the members:

EUREC *(coordinator)*
GCP Europe *(coordinator)*
Solar Power Europe *(coordinator)*
Airborne Wind Europe
Bioenergy Europe
EIT Innoenergy
EGEC
EHI
EHPA
ESTELA
Europe ON
European Biogas Association
Ocean Energy Europe
REScoop.eu
Solar Heat Europe
Wind Europe
T&D Europe