

Call for Expression of Interest
**for the selection of beneficiaries in the context of "Counselling,
Training and Certification Services"**

**Project: "Computing Power Goes Green" MIS code:
5129748**



The Project is co-funded by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) and by national resources (PIP)

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1. Summary of the Call

The Technical Chamber of Greece (T.E.E. - T.C.G), in the context of the Interregional Cross-Border Cooperation Program “Interreg V-B Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020”, has been assigned, as the contracting authority, the implementation of the Action called “**Counselling, Training and Certification services**” as part of the Project titled “**Computing Power Goes Green**” with MIS code 5129748. The Project is co-funded by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) and by national resources (PIP).

The scope of the Project

The scope of the Project is the implementation of Counselling, Training and Certification services for 1.300 professionals from Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia, in order to acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities that will substantially enhance the promotion of innovative technologies, in order to improve the efficiency of environmental protection and the efficient use of resources, as well as support modern corporations in adopting and implementing new, environmentally friendly, methods and practices.

The **Beneficiaries of the Project** are 1.300 professionals, engineers, technicians, and professionals of other related specialties, as well as anyone interested in participating in this Program. The implementation of the Project will cover the entire Program intervention area, namely Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

2. The scope of the Project

The scope of the Project is to provide targeted **counselling, professional training and certification services** to **1.300** professionals, engineers, technicians, and other related specialties, as well as anyone interested in participating in the Program, aiming to promote innovative technologies in order to enhance the effectiveness of environmental protection and the efficient use of resources, as well as to support modern corporations in adopting and implementing new, environmentally friendly, methods and practices.

Specifically, the actions that will be implemented are:

Counselling Support: Through the targeted counselling services which are included in this project, specialized services will be offered to the participants, in order to actively support the “turn” of their professional activities towards the adoption and support of green technologies and approaches, in the field of implementation and use of modern computing systems. In addition, possible paths of professional and personal development will be explored, through the relevant professional specialties, which will be taught in the context of this Project. The fostering of cooperation and the exploration of common concerns will be supported. Consulting guidance will include one (1) 45' group session [in groups with a maximum number of twenty-five (25) beneficiaries] on issues regarding innovative green technologies and ways of adopting them, **before the beginning of the training**. The professional counselling guidance services will be carried out by the method of remote meeting between Counselor and Beneficiaries through the Contractor's Integrated Counseling System (ICS), due to sanitary and

practical reasons, as it will be possible for beneficiaries to simultaneously participate in the entire extended intervention area of the Project.

Professional Training: Training will include 40 hours of distance learning (for each program) so that the 1.300 beneficiaries will acquire abilities, knowledge and skills in the field of innovative technologies in order to improve the effectiveness of environmental protection and the efficient use of resources. The fields of knowledge are also related to the field of waste, soil protection and the reduction of air pollution, while at the same time they strengthen the management and utilization skills of the professional qualifications of the beneficiaries. The Training activities will be implemented using the remote training method (80% real time & 20% on demand – with special care for people with disabilities).

Certification: Beneficiary trainees are given the opportunity to participate in certification exams (remotely, via tele-proctoring), in order to obtain a Certification in compliance with ISO 17024 standard (which grants professional rights on European and International level) for certification schemes which are consistent with the training programs, as indicated in the declaration:

- I. IT Infrastructure and Systems and Environmental Sustainability → Environmentally Sustainable IT Infrastructure.
- II. Modern, Near Zero - Energy Professional Spaces → Energy Saving in Professional Spaces and Sites.

In this context, the participants will receive - regarding their professional activity - important knowledge and skills in energy consumption and energy efficiency of buildings and infrastructure, energy saving and the utilization of modern low-energy IT technologies, which they will be able to immediately apply in their field of work or in their business. The Certification procedure will be carried out by a Certification Body that is accredited in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17024 standard or equivalent or by National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP). The certification ensures the benefits of the program for the participants, who acquire recognizable qualifications in the job market. The certification process will be carried out remotely using a tele-proctoring method as approved by the Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD).

3. Counselling Support

Counselling services aim to diagnose and map the needs of the 1.300 beneficiaries (scientists, engineers, technicians, and other relevant specialties, as well as anyone interested in participating in the program) and provide guidance before the beginning of the training. Counselling is the initial service of the training activity. Each beneficiary will be offered a group counselling session, regarding their guidance in issues of innovative green technologies and ways to adopt them before the beginning of their training. Given the specialized training subject and in order to ensure maximum effectiveness of these actions, the group sessions method will be followed, supporting a round-table discussion among the participants, investigating and expressing common concerns, fostering cooperation and collaboration in finding and implementing solutions to common problems. These group sessions will be held

at classroom level, that is, up to twenty-five (25) people. The duration of each session will be 45 minutes.

The implementation of counselling intervention methodology and the related techniques and tools, will always be conducted in relation to the particular needs and characteristics of the participants and will be based on the following principles:

- Encouraging the active participation of those consulted.
- A targeted approach, guidance and support of those consulted, depending on their characteristics and needs in combination with the purpose of the Project.
- Diagnosing and respecting their particular requirements during the implementation of these sessions.

4. Professional Training

Within the framework of this Project, two (2) training programs will be implemented, which were designed according to the methods and techniques of adult education.

Specifically, the programs that will be implemented are:

- IT Infrastructure and Systems and Environmental Sustainability
- Modern, Near Zero - Energy Professional Spaces

Each one of the two programs will have a **duration of 40 hours** (theoretical training), will take place **out of the participants' working hours** and will lead to a Certification of knowledge, skills and abilities that the participants are expected to acquire in the subject of the program.

The Training programs, thematic sections, as well as the training hours per module are included in the following tables:

A. IT Infrastructure and Systems and Environmental Sustainability		
Thematic sections	Break down into subsections	Teaching hours
THEMATIC SECTION 1. Introduction to the concepts of Sustainability and Natural Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition of sustainability and its connection with the wasteful use of resources from an environmental and economic point of view - Description of appropriate strategies and practices for assessing sustainability - Triple Bottom Line (TBL): An accounting framework that assesses business performance based on 3 areas (profit, people, planet) - Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG): practices that define a company's business model and behavior based on environmental, social and governance factors. 	6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDGs: They are "international" goals, adopted by all UN member states, which all countries are called upon to implement and which address all factors of social and environmental well-being. 	
THEMATIC SECTION 2. Electronic Systems and Installations, Energy Consumption Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed analysis and training on the performance of electronic systems, energy consumption and infrastructure needs. - Baseline assessment of direct and indirect environmental impact. - Temperatures that develop in Data Centers and large computer system installations and the requirements for cooling these areas. - Training in special analysis methods of necessary tool groups. 	8
THEMATIC SECTION 3. Techniques to Improve Energy Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing expertise on Energy Efficiency Improvement Actions for industrial and non-industrial computing systems. - Analysis of electronic systems technologies and selection of methodologies in terms of environmental impact 	10
THEMATIC SECTION 4. Energy Monitoring and Target Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying the basic principles of how to identify the necessary information and how to make the best use of the information obtained. - Monitoring techniques and methods for corrective action. 	4
THEMATIC SECTION 5. Energy Efficiency Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of existing Environmental and Energy Certificates. - Special reference to large-scale computer systems and data centers 	8
THEMATIC SECTION 6. Future Technological Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of existing Environmental and Energy Certificates. - Specific reference to large computer systems and data centers. 	4
Total Hours of theoretical classes		40

B. Modern, Near Zero-Energy Professional Spaces		
Thematic sections	Break down into subsections	Teaching hours
<p>THEMATIC SECTION 1. The importance of energy efficient buildings and professional spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the importance of energy efficiency in buildings and specifically in professional spaces. - Modern heating and cooling systems and ways of implementation and adaptation in buildings. - Renewable energy systems and their significant impact on building energy use. - Special characteristics and requirements for professional spaces and electronic installations. 	8
<p>THEMATIC SECTION 2. Professional spaces with low carbon and energy emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategies, technologies and solutions for buildings and professional spaces with low carbon and energy emissions. - Positive interventions to reduce CO2 emissions due to reduced energy use in existing buildings. 	12
<p>THEMATIC SECTION 3. Low and zero carbon energy technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to zero or nearly zero carbon technologies. - Technical issues, design and suggestions for their maintenance. - Fixed and ongoing costs for the evaluation of their implementation and their integration systems in existing buildings. 	11
<p>THEMATIC SECTION 4. Energy saving strategies in professional spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of energy saving strategies in professional spaces and their management, with reference to basic and more complex principles. - Studying European legislation. - A systematic approach to creating a plan to successfully control the use of electronic and non-electronic equipment. 	5

THEMATIC SECTION 5. Future Technological Developments	- Presentation of technological developments in information systems, improvements and relative priorities of energy consumption and the environmental footprint of electronic infrastructure.	4
Total Hours of theoretical classes		40

5. Knowledge & Skills Certification of Beneficiaries

At the end of the training courses, each beneficiary can take part in the certification procedure regarding the knowledge and skills which they acquired, in the following Certification Schemes:

A/A	TRAINING PROGRAM	CERTIFICATION SCHEME
1	IT Infrastructure and Systems and Environmental Sustainability	Environmentally Sustainable IT Infrastructure
2	Modern, Near Zero – Energy Professional Spaces	Energy Saving in Professional Spaces and Sites

The certification examinations and re-examinations will be conducted remotely through an online tele-proctoring system, which has to be accredited by the Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD).

The Certification of qualifications, knowledge, skills and abilities has emerged as one of the most important parameters of Lifelong Education and Adult Vocational Training because it relates to two very important fields: training and work. The goal is to connect the certification of qualifications with the proof of professional competence, as well as with the recognition of professional/work experience of the beneficiaries.

All beneficiaries may participate in the certification exams after completing the training programs. The certification exams can be repeated once (re-examination) in case of failure or inability of the beneficiaries to participate in the first exam. Each beneficiary who successfully completes the exam, or re-examination, is granted a Certificate by the contracted Certification Body. In case of failure, the Certification Body will issue a certificate of participation in the exams, which will bear the name of the beneficiary and the dates of the examination in which he/she participated (once or two).

6. Terms of Implementation

Each beneficiary will attend **one (1)** of the above training subjects.

The most important terms of implementation of the training programs are as follows:

1. Each beneficiary will be offered one (1) group counselling session, lasting 45 minutes.

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2. Each training program includes 40 hours of theoretical training.
3. The training is carried out in groups of 5 (minimum) to 25 (maximum) beneficiaries.
4. **Participation in counselling, training and certification activities is free of charge and the participants do not receive an educational allowance.**
5. The total daily duration of real-time remote training cannot exceed four (4) hours, including breaks.
6. It is not allowed to implement real-time remote training on Sundays and public holidays.
7. The digital training material will be available to the trainees through the Remote Training Subsystem of the Integrated Information System, which the Contractor will use.
8. Each trainee may be absent for up to 10% of the total training hours. Especially for training programs in which trainees are persons with disabilities, the percentage of permitted absences is increased to 20% after justification and in agreement with the trainee. The same percentage of 20% applies to trainees who, during the implementation of the program, have proven hospitalization in a public hospital, as well as to pregnant women and women in postpartum period.
9. **Trainees who have exceeded the maximum limit of absences shall not have the right to participate in the certification exams and are not granted a certificate of attendance.**
10. Each trainee may participate in the certification exam, having the right to a re-examination (in case of failure or inability to participate in the first exam).
11. Each beneficiary who successfully completes the certification examination or re-examination, will be granted a Certificate by the contracted Certification Body. In case of failure of the beneficiary, the Certification Entity will issue a certificate for his participation in the certification exams, which will bear the name of the beneficiary and the date of the examination in which he/she participated.
12. In case that one or more trainees who participate in the training group, and are included in the list of trainees, do not arrive during the time period of the permitted absence limit for the implementation of the training, they can be replaced by the runners-up in order of priority.

7. Distribution of beneficiaries

The Project applies to the entire country and the cooperation area of the Interreg V-B Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020 Interregional Cross-border Cooperation Program and includes 3 countries, which are already member states of the European Union, and more specifically Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria, as well as 2 candidate countries for accession, Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia. The implementation of the training programs will concern the entire intervention area of the Project and will be addressed to all those who express interest and meet the eligibility criteria for participation in this Project (after the counselling services, in accordance with the provision of the declaration).

8. Personal Data Protection

Based on Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and the repeal of Directive 95/ 46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), data controllers are the T.E.E. - T.C.G. and the Training Provider.

The T.E.E. - T.C.G. (during the selection of the beneficiaries) - in collaboration with the Training Provider (during the formation of the groups) - will process the personal data submitted by each interested candidate for participation in the Project for **a)** evaluation of the application that has been submitted, **b)** assessment of any objections that will be submitted by the subject of personal data, in accordance with the provisions of the present and **c)** ensuring the provision of training and certification services.

The processing of personal data will be limited only to the necessary data at each time and only for the minimum possible duration so that all the necessary technical and organizational security measures are taken. The duration of data storage and processing is defined, on the one hand, by the duration and purpose of this invitation and the participation of the beneficiary in the foreseen actions (consulting, training, certification) and, on the other hand, by the obligation of the T.E.E. - T.C.G. to keep the file of the Project with all the data related to the execution of the Project, for a period of three (3) years upon completion, repayment and execution of the Project, in order to be carried out an accounting and legal audit by the competent supervisory authorities.

9. Right to participate in the Project - Beneficiary selection criteria

It is pointed out that this Project is open to all professionals, engineers, technicians, and other relevant specialties, as well as to anyone interested in participating in this program. In any case, any professional interested in supporting the objectives of the Project is welcome to participate in its activities. All professionals are eligible to participate until available training positions are filled. **Trainees will be selected in order of priority according to the reference number and the date of their application for participation (first in first out, FIFO) and until all available positions are filled, according to the present Call.**

10. Application procedure / How to Apply

The period for submitting applications and uploading supporting documents is from 17/03/2023 and until all offered positions are filled according to the present Call.

Beneficiaries are included in the Project as follows:

- 1) **Completing and submitting the application online** on the Project's digital platform <https://katartisi-green.tee.gr/>
Each candidate submits the specifically prepared application for participation online, **which is subject to a Solemn Declaration** and is completed under the sole

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responsibility of the interested party. By submitting the Application for Participation, the candidate receives a UNIQUE Code Number for Submission of Application for Participation (KAYAS), which is sent with his completed application to the e-mail address he has indicated.

All interested parties have the right to indicate on their application one or both thematic subjects in order of preference. [Clarification: each beneficiary has the right to participate in one (1) thematic subject].

- 2) **Uploading the necessary supporting documents online.** After submitting the online applications, those who are interested should upload the necessary supporting documents to the online platform <https://katartisi-green.tee.gr/>, as defined in the next section, in order to certify the details that they declare in their application. The uploading of the necessary supporting documents is done online, either when submitting the application, or at a later time. In order to upload the supporting documents at a later time than submitting the application, candidates should select “Save” in their application, in order for it to be marked as “Saved”. While the application is at this stage, applicants can come back at a later time and edit their registration details as well as upload or replace one or more supporting documents, through the “retrieve application” process.
- 3) **“Final Submission”** can only be done when all the required supporting documents specified in the Call have been uploaded, otherwise the system does not allow the application to be “Submitted”. The “Final Submission” of the Application and its designation as “Submitted”, does not allow candidates to modify their application and supporting documents. **The non-final submission of the online application, as well as the non-posting of supporting documents, render the relevant application invalid.** A reason for rejecting the application is also the wrong or incomplete submission of the supporting documents.

In order to check the progress of their application, the potential beneficiaries will be able to access the information of the Registry that concerns them by using the unique KAYAS code, which is sent to the indicated e-mail, right after submitting their application.

Note: As the date of the application submission is considered the date of **final submission** of the application and receipt of KAYAS.

11. Supporting Documents required for participation

Upon submission of the digital applications, all applicants should upload on the specially configured online platform of the T.E.E. - T.C.G. <https://katartisi-green.tee.gr/> their supporting documents, as described below, in order to certify the details that they declare in their application. It is pointed out that the storage of digital and physical records of sensitive personal data will meet the conditions set by the Personal Data Protection Authority.

Supporting documents are submitted and accepted in sharp scanned files (in PDF or image format) of the original documents or their exact copies.

The supporting documents that the applicants must upload in the relevant fields for their participation in the Project are as follows:

1. **Two-sided copy of their identification card** or passport or any other identification document
2. **Copy of Education Degree Certificate**

12. Information – Clarification

To support those who are interested in submitting their application and uploading their supporting documents, throughout the duration of the Project, the T.C.G. will provide support services on working days, from 09:30 to 18:00 and via helpdesk on the following e-mail: katartisi-green@tee.gr