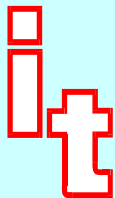


# SUNTRAIN Approach



**Power**  
4th December 2003

Quality of Installations, ESTIF, Bruxelles

# Partners

- ESTIF
- Fraunhofer Institute, Germany
- CRES, Greece
- TTA, Spain
- IT Power, UK



# AIM of SUNTRAIN

- To provide a European benchmark for accrediting solar water heating installer courses
- To provide a possible route for accreditation for organisation that operate SWH course and want to be accredited

# Key outputs

- Survey of existing training in Germany, Greece, Spain & UK
- Key competencies
- Accreditation and certification scheme



# Survey of existing courses

- Spain - Well established nationally recognised courses
- Germany - Well established courses
- Greece - Limited training carried out by manufacturers
- UK - Very limited training

# Survey highlighted

- Differences in national education frameworks between member states
- Differences in technologies employed in member states due to climate conditions and markets
- The weighting given to vocational qualifications differs between states

# What are key competencies?

- List of key basic skills which SWH installers should have to be able to install a SWH system competently and safely.
- Why are the key competencies of benefit?
  - Provide a benchmark to which SWH installers courses can be accredited.



# Accreditation and Certification Defined

- **Accreditation:** Qualifying Training and Trainers
- **Certification:** Qualifying Practitioners (or Hardware, or Practices): Voluntary



# Accreditation

- A Legal Institution/Entity
- Qualified Instructor(s) and Staff
- Facilities, Equipment, Resources
- Curriculum that Meets Standards
- Quality System/Documentation

# Why Accreditation and Certification?

- Promote Quality and Safety
- Professional Credibility and Recognition
- Mitigating Liability
- Better Access to Financing, Insurance, and Markets
- Portability and Reciprocity
- Efficiency of installation (Cost and Time)

# Concerns vs. Benefits

- Burdensome?
- Bureaucratic?
- Expensive?
- Exclusionary/  
Elitist?
- Quality
- Consistency
- Consensus
- Portable
- Broadly  
Recognised



# ISPQ

- International Non-Profit organisation
- Independent Accrediting Body for Renewable Energy Training Programmes
- Standards Making and Standards Coordinating Body



# Benefits of SUNTRAIN

- European Benchmark for courses
- Exchange of information between states
- Promotion of SWH through quality installations
- Professionalism
- Bring SWH to the mainstream