

2. About energy advisors

It is necessary to differentiate two types of energy advisors when we talk about energy advisors – certified experts for energy performance certification of buildings who are enrolled in publicly available registers of certified energy advisors; and non-certified energy advisors.

Certified energy advisors can conduct energy audits and issue energy certificates. Those are independently qualified or certified experts who completed an officially accredited training program and are also meeting the conditions prescribed by the national law, such as completion of a certain educational degree from a precisely defined area or previously acquired work experience in similar jobs. A legal or a natural person can be given the authorization for energy audits and energy performance certification of buildings to be able to conduct energy audits and certification of residential and non-residential buildings with a simple technical system, as well as energy audits with a complex technical system.¹

Given that the European legislative framework² provides Member States with an obligation system on energy efficiency, there is a continuous need for Member States to train a significant number of people who are interested in deepening their knowledge of energy efficiency and energy advising.

Although the certified energy advisors can only be those who meet certain requirements, such as completed prior education or work experience, **non-certified energy advisors** may be the individuals who do not necessarily have a completed study in the field of technical science nor they have a previous work experience in the field of energy efficiency. Those individuals can be easily trained to become energy advisors, with regards to the lifelong learning system, who will be able to conduct a variety of tasks connected to energy advising and simple energy audits for households. **Training programs for non-certified energy advisors are intended for individuals, organizations dealing with energy poverty, persons employed in energy sectors of local and regional authorities, unemployed and all those interested in energy efficiency.** Although such trainings may require certain knowledge-levels on energy efficiency, there are no formally-specified qualifications linked. Trainings for energy advisors can cover a variety of topics, from the implementation of energy audits, basics of energy poverty, to the training on how to install an energy insulation. These can also provide sustainable and environmentally friendly opportunities for unemployed individuals or those who seek to widen their competences.

¹ Republic of Croatia - Construction Law

² DIRECTIVE 2012/27/ on energy efficiency

DIRECTIVE 2018/2002 on amending the Directive 2012/27/ on energy efficiency

DIRECTIVE 2010/31 on energy efficiency of buildings

DIRECTIVE 2018/844. on amending the Directive 2010/31 on energy efficiency of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency

REGULATION 2018/1999/ on the governance of the energy union and climate action

The general competences that individuals who complete the training for energy advisors can gain

Among the competences and knowledge sets that the persons who attend the trainings for energy advisors should adopt at the end of the training course are the following:

- understanding the ways of energy use and understanding and identifying potential ways to achieve certain energy and financial savings in households;
- ability to calculate energy consumption (electricity, heat energy, natural gas, fuel and water);
- ability to identify ways of energy loss, but also to prevent energy losses in households (insulation, draft-proofing, installation of adequate heating system);
- understanding what is energy poverty and what causes it.³

The general types of jobs for energy advisors

The persons qualified for energy advising can create and **implement trainings** for public-building managers, for communal energy companies; for citizens in the risk of energy poverty, but also for those who just want their homes or workplaces to be more efficient; for SMEs that want to make their businesses more energy efficient; **advise on energy saving ways** in households at risk of energy poverty and can help calculate energy consumption, and point-out potential financial savings in household budgets; **perform simple audits and prepare reports on performed audits** with recommendations for implementing simple energy efficiency measures in households at risk of energy poverty; **do consultancy and research and development** in the field of energy efficiency of buildings; **educate about energy efficiency; educate about energy poverty**, its causes, ways of prevention, and more. Energy advisors can provide advice to vulnerable consumers and energy-poor households, but also to other users, such as SMEs and local authorities, on financial measures that are in effect in certain countries, and which contribute to alleviate energy poverty and to increasing energy efficiency.

Where can energy advisors who have completed the training be employed?

Energy advisors can be employed in:

- energy companies where they can advise end-beneficiaries, belonging to the category of vulnerable consumers, on the energy efficiency measures. In that way, they are enabling their employees to access different energy efficiency measures, thereby directly contributing to the alleviation of energy poverty, but also contributing to the achievement of social goals set for energy companies (suppliers and / or distributors).
- urban utility companies, city's information centres or in local and regional authorities' offices, civil society organizations and with social services providers or in the healthcare

³ In the Republic of Croatia, adult education programs are approved by the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education.

sector, where they can advise citizens on energy efficiency measures, but also on open financial measures aimed at promoting energy efficiency for legal and natural persons.

- companies for energy auditing and certification, and can assist to certified energy advisors in energy audits and preparation of reports. It is important to highlight that non-certified energy advisors can carry out simple energy audits, but are not authorized to issue energy certificates nor can their records be kept in publicly available national registers.
- various public and state bodies dealing with energy efficiency, construction, environmental protection, and social measures for persons with lower incomes, whose goal is to alleviate poverty. Energy advisors can help co-create the finances needed to alleviate energy poverty.
- various organizations which are aiming to alleviate energy poverty.