

EKVÜ – Estonian Society of Heating and Ventilation Engineers – hosts REHVA Annual meeting in Tallinn



Tiit Kerem
M.Sc. (Eng.),
EKVÜ President,
CEO of Hevecon OÜ,
working experience of
22 year as consultant



Aivar Uutar
M.Sc. (Eng.),
EKVÜ Vice-president,
Construction director in
Clik AS, 14 year in
contracting and lecturer
in Tallinn University of
Applied Sciences



Peeter Parre
M.Sc. (Eng.),
EKVÜ Vice-president,
CEO of IB Aksiaal,
worked 35 years as
consultant and 30 years
as lecturer in Tallinn
University of Technology

History and activities

Professional activities of the engineers of heating and ventilation commenced already in the Soviet period, during the operation of the sanitary technology section of Tallinn University of Technology of the Building Industry of the ESSR as the predecessor of EKVÜ.

In spring 1989, 28 engineers working in the field of heating and ventilation founded the Association of Heating and Ventilation Engineers. The statute of the society was adopted, fixing the objectives of the activities, rules for its membership, organisation of work, main lines of activity as well as rights and obligations of the members.

At the end of 1989 a professional contact was established with the Finnish heating and ventilation engineers SuLVI society in Finland, which inspired and gave rise to the foundation of the Estonian Society of Heating and Ventilation Engineers (EKVÜ) in 1991, when the foundation meeting of EKVÜ was summoned on April 18 with 36 members participating. They elected a 7-member council and a 3-member board committee. In summer 1991, political events called “singing revolution” resulted in restored independent Estonia, as well bureaucratic procedures took a considerable time, and therefore after a small delay the registration certificate issued by the Tallinn City Government bears the date of October 4, 1991.

In 2011, EKVÜ membership has reached already over 225 speciality engineers (while the population of Estonia is 1.3 million people!).

Courses

EKVÜ started monthly continuing training sessions immediately after its foundation. A demand for such updating education was high, as the design of HVAC systems in 1990es included plenty of new aspects far from common understanding. Contacts with Finnish colleagues were very important at that transitional period, as they did not save time or effort to provide relevant guidance available for Estonian colleagues. The structure of the training plan of EKVÜ has always been similar and mainly targeted to the increase of competency of its members.

Profession certification

EKVÜ grants profession certification in the field of energy performance of buildings in accordance with the Professions Act. To ensure impartiality in the granting of profession certificates, a 7-member professional qualifications committee has been set up, including the representatives of various experts as well as organisations.

At the moment the following professions are granted:

- Issuer of building label III
- Energy auditor IV
- Energy auditor with a diploma V
- Authorised energy auditor V

Energy auditor is an engineer-advisor of the field of energy performance and energy saving of buildings, who must be able for integrated approach of energy performance of the building. Energy auditors are divided into different levels depending on the complexity of the building.

Energy auditor IV may operate only in the field of dwellings, Energy auditor with a diploma V in the field of dwellings and

public buildings, and Authorised energy auditor V also in the field of especially complex (incl. industrial) buildings.

Up to April 2011, the profession of an issuer of building label has been granted to 105 persons and the profession of energy auditor to 95 persons, of whom 6 have received the profession of authorised energy auditor V, 33 the profession of energy auditor with a diploma V and 56 the profession of energy auditor IV.

Standards and regulation

As the foundation of EKVÜ took place in the period of initial development of the legislation of the restored independent Republic of Estonia, EKVÜ participated from the very beginning in any field requiring the advice of heating and ventilation engineers, and also in the fields, where our advice was not specially expected, but where we considered it necessary ourselves.

When it was decided on national level that the standards of other countries (first and foremost Finland) were not suitable for adoption, we started to draft Estonian national standards (EVS), forming a relevant technical committee TK27. Participating actively in the Council of Building Regulations joining all professional associations, the representation of EKVÜ also helped to develop the standards for other specialities.

In addition to standards we have been participating in legislative activities – our representatives have operated in the working groups for the development of the Building Act as well as various health protection regulations. Hereby EKVÜ has the leading role in the issues of energy performance. **3E**