

## **Driving Consistent and High-Quality Training on Alternative Refrigerants Across Europe**

Real Alternatives is an official European Training Programme providing training and a certification system on low GWP alternative refrigerants (HFOs, Hydrocarbons, Carbon Dioxide and Ammonia). The trainings are constantly delivered to both European trainers and professionals and the training materials are available in over 20 languages and implemented in 23 countries, ensuring widespread accessibility.

In the past 7 years, the Project has achieved significant milestones, establishing a strong network of stakeholders that actively contribute to developing updated and standardized training across nearly all EU Member States. Today, we represent 25 associations including International and European bodies such as IIR (International Institute of Refrigeration) and AREA (Air conditioning and Refrigeration European Association for contractors) along with numerous training providers. Please refer to the Annex to consult the full list of partners.



*Photo 1: The Stakeholder group at the last Stakeholder Meeting, 24th February 2025 at IKKE, Duisburg (Germany)*

As the refrigeration and air conditioning sector transitions to the phase out of fluorinated gases, the Real Alternatives initiative continues to play a crucial role in harmonizing training and certification on across Europe. With the adoption of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2215, the need for consistent, high-quality training has never been more critical.

### **A Ready-to-Use Framework for National Decrees**

By providing structured training materials, certification schemes, and guidance for national implementation, the initiative ensures that technicians and trainers are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools to safely handle low-GWP refrigerants. This includes risk assessment, minimum distances for safe operations, necessary tools, and standardized procedures—all critical components in ensuring safety and efficiency in real-world applications.

As Member States work toward the implementation of EU Reg. 2024/2215, Real Alternatives provides a valuable model for national training and certification schemes. Many of our partners are directly engaged with institutional

bodies and regulatory authorities, actively contributing to the development of national laws that will shape the future of refrigeration training in their respective countries.

Since 2019, we have been providing this training, with nearly 3,000 certificates already issued, demonstrating the widespread adoption and effectiveness of our approach across Europe.

The structured approach provided by Real Alternatives offers a ready-to-adopt framework that can be applied at a national level to ensure compliance with EU requirements.

The Real Alternatives training and assessment schemes is on line with the Annex I of the new EU F-gas Certification Implementing Act 2024/2215 for HC and CO<sub>2</sub> and fulfils the criteria of Art 10 point “a” of the same regulation.

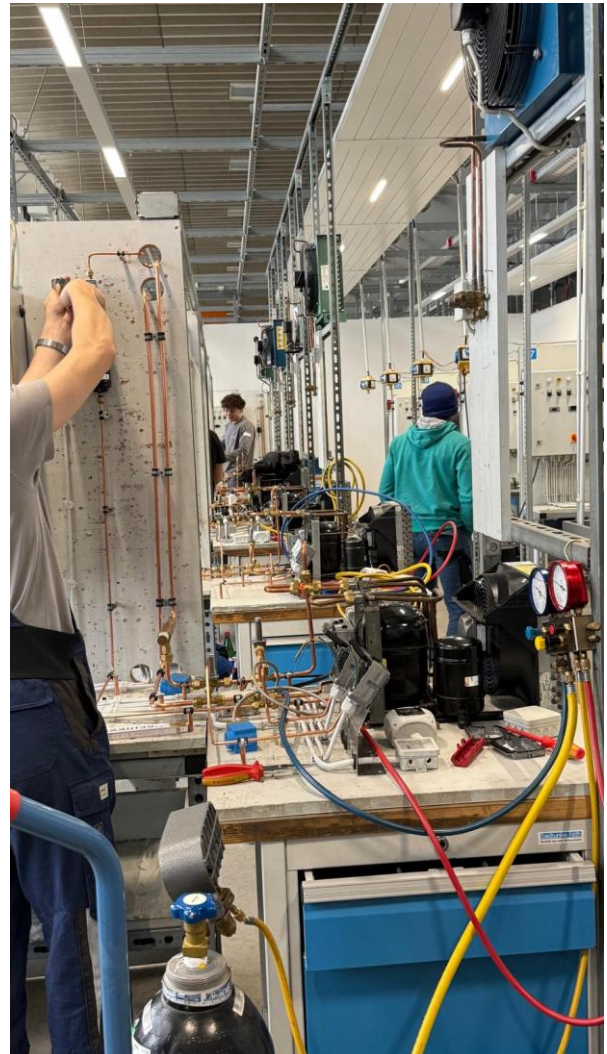
### **Harmonizing Training Through the Train-the-Trainer Program**

A key component of this work is the Train-the-Trainer program, which focuses on harmonizing teaching methodologies and certification standards. This initiative is essential in supporting countries as they draft their national certification schemes, ensuring alignment with EU regulations and fostering a uniform approach to refrigerant training.

The currently ongoing Train-the-Trainer session at IKKE training centre in Duisburg, Germany which will run from the 24<sup>th</sup> of February to the 28<sup>th</sup>, serves as an excellent opportunity for partners to experience first-hand well-established training structures that can be replicated in their own countries. By seeing exemplary training facilities, methodologies, and best practices in action, stakeholders can gain valuable insights into how to implement similar programs within their national frameworks.

### **Call to Action: A Resource for EU Decision Makers**

With its continued success and growing impact, Real Alternatives stands as a cornerstone in the industry’s transition towards sustainable and safe refrigerant best practices. By working closely with partners and stakeholders, the initiative is shaping the future of refrigeration training across Europe, reinforcing both environmental goals and workforce development.



*Photo 2: Practical Session at the TOT at IKKE, Duisburg (Germany)*

**Real Alternatives Official Statement Letter:  
A Key Resource for National Certification Schemes**



We **urge EU decision-makers**, particularly those in the **Ministries of Environment of the 27 EU Member States**, to **incorporate REAL Alternatives' training materials** when drafting their **national decrees** for the following equivalences:

- the **Real Alternatives HC certificate** as evidence for the additional training that existing **F-Gas certified personnel** will have to undergo to comply with the provisions of **A1/A2 certification**
- the **Real Alternative CO2 certificate** as evidence for obtaining **certification B** under regulation **2025/2215**

We remain at disposal, please contact the Project Management Team at [training@centrogalileo.it](mailto:training@centrogalileo.it) and visit our website at <https://www.realalternatives.eu/> .

Duisburg, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025





*Real Alternatives Consortium*

*Annex 1: List of the Stakeholders and Official Training Providers*

**FOUNDING PARTNERS:**

	<p>AREA Association of European Refrigeration Air Conditioning &amp; Heat Pump Contractors</p>		<p>IIR International Institute of Refrigeration</p>
	<p>ATF, Associazione Tecnici del Freddo</p>		<p>UCLL, University College Leuven-Limburg</p>
	<p>IKKE, Informationszentrum für Kälte-, Klima- und Energietechnik gGmbH</p>		<p>LSBU, London South Bank University</p>
	<p>IOR, Institute of Refrigeration</p>		<p>PROZON, Fundacja Ochrony Klimatu</p>

**NATIONAL LEAD AND OFFICIAL TRAINING PROVIDERS:**

		<p>AERES, University of Applied Sciences</p>
		<p>APIRAC, Portuguese Association of the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry</p>



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Cemafruid Formation



CNI,  
National Confederation of  
Installers

- SENFOASTUR SL
- Formacion Tierra de Barros SL
- CIFP Don Bosco
- AMYCIF
- CEOE CEPYME Cuenca
- IES H Lanz Granada
- IES Virgen de Gracia



SCHKT Czech  
Association for cooling  
and air conditioning  
technology



ECAC



EKUK,  
Estonian Environmental  
Research Centre



HUGAS,  
Hellas Union Fgas



HURKT, Croatian  
Refrigeration  
Airconditioning and Heat  
Pumps Association

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		IRHACE, Institute of Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers	
		MOPIA, Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association	
		AGFR, Association General of Refrigeration	
		Shirakatsy Lyceum	
		SOSIAD, Association of Refrigeration Industry and Businessmen	
		SKVP, Swedish Cooling & Heating Pump Association	
		SZ CHKT, Slovak Association for Cooling and Airconditioning technology	
		UNIC, University of Nicosia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyprus Productivity Center, Kallipoleos</li> <li>• Cyprus Refrigeration Academy</li> </ul>