

Casale M.to, 30 June 2025 — As EU Member States are in the critical phase of implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2215, the Real Alternatives Consortium urges national governments and ministries to adopt the **Real Alternatives certification scheme** as a reference framework for the qualification and upskilling of personnel handling alternative refrigerants.

The **Real Alternatives programme** is a pan-European training and certification initiative focused on low-GWP refrigerants, including **HFOs, hydrocarbons, CO₂, and ammonia**. Developed in cooperation with over **25 European and international institutions**, the programme provides harmonised training materials, risk-based safety guidelines, and a certification pathway that is fully aligned with the requirements set forth in the new F-gas Regulation.

With more than **3,100 certificates already issued across 23 countries**, Real Alternatives represents a **mature, field-tested model** for national implementation. It enables EU Member States to meet the new requirements for certification of personnel under Article 10 and Annex I of the Regulation.

"Governments need reliable, ready-to-implement frameworks to meet EU compliance deadlines. Real Alternatives is that solution: multilingual, widely adopted, and built by experts," said **Marco Buoni**, General Secretary of *Associazione Tecnici del Freddo – ATF* and lead project manager for the Consortium.

Key benefits for national authorities:

- Alignment with **Regulation 2024/2215**, including certification A1/A2 for hydrocarbons and certification B for CO₂
- Material already translated into over **20 languages** and adopted in diverse regulatory environments
- Organisation of **Train-the-Trainer events** to ensure consistency and scalability across Europe

Real Alternatives is already being used by numerous institutional bodies to draft or support national decrees. It equips technicians with vital knowledge and tools, from safe handling practices to standardized procedures, helping accelerate the safe transition away from high-GWP fluorinated gases.

"This is a unique opportunity for governments to adopt a proven scheme that safeguards both the climate and workforce safety. We call on all ministries of environment and competent authorities to recognise Real Alternatives certifications as official evidence of compliance." Continues Marco Buoni.

Following the successful **Train-the-Trainer event at IKKE in Duisburg, Germany**, a new session in October 2025 is now being organised at **PROZON's new training centre in Grabce Józefpolskie, Poland**, further expanding the reach and impact of this key European initiative.

Contact

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Resources:

For support in integrating Real Alternatives into national frameworks, please contact:

 info@realalternatives.eu . For more information, visit  www.realalternatives.eu

Annex 1: List of the Stakeholders and Official Training Providers

FOUNDING PARTNERS:

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

NATIONAL LEAD AND OFFICIAL TRAINING PROVIDERS:

		AERES, University of Applied Sciences
		APIRAC, Portuguese Association of the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry



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



IRHACE, Institute of
Refrigeration, Heating and
Air Conditioning
Engineers



MOPIA, Manitoba Ozone
Protection Industry
Association



AGFR, The Romanian
General Association of
Refrigeration



Shirakatsy Lyceum



SOSIAD, Association of
Refrigeration Industry and
Businessmen



SKVP, Swedish Cooling &
Heating Pump Association

- INSU, Training Center



SZ CHKT, Slovak
Association for Cooling
and Airconditioning
technology



UNIC, University of
Nicosia

- Cyprus Productivity Center,
Kallipoleos
- Cyprus Refrigeration Academy