



European Commission



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEM

Construction is the second largest industrial ecosystem in the EU, both in economic and employment terms. It is a major contributor to economic growth and job creation in Europe, and provides important solutions to social, climate and energy challenges. As such, it plays an important role in Europe's economy. At the same time, it is also one of the most resource intensive sectors of the economy, with the greatest need to develop more productive practices and improved use of secondary materials.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



Brings 9.6% of value added to EU economy



5.3 million businesses, with over 99% SMEs



24.9 million jobs in EU



Europeans spend **85-90%** of their time on average in buildings



Responsible for **37.5%** of EU's **waste** in 2020



40% of EU energy is **consumed by buildings**



Buildings account for **36%** of **energy related greenhouse gas emissions**



KEY CHALLENGES



Improving environmental sustainability: Europe's building stock is rapidly aging and suffers from a low rate of renovations. Promoting energy efficiency, reuse and recycling of primary materials and accelerating renovations is essential to reduce emissions across the ecosystem.



Complexity of supply chains: construction is largely dependent on other, mostly energy intensive ecosystems for inputs like steel, glass, aluminium, cement and concrete products as well as chemical products like asphalt, paint, varnish, and clay products like bricks and tiles.



Workforce availability and skills: Construction is labour intensive and currently lacking in skilled labour due to ageing workers retiring and challenges in attracting younger workers.

MAKING CONSTRUCTION GREENER, MORE DIGITAL AND MORE RESILIENT

The Commission, together with stakeholders from across the construction ecosystem published a transition pathway in March 2023. This dynamic roadmap sets out the conditions and actions needed for a greener, more digital and more resilient Construction Ecosystem. It also addresses the transition towards safer buildings and affordable housing for all Europeans. To make the transition pathway a reality, participating stakeholders are now implementing a series of pledged actions, with the Commission's support and collaboration.



SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION



SECURING RELEVANT SKILLS FOR CONSTRUCTION

The Commission, together with construction stakeholders, has launched a large-scale skills partnership for construction to pool expertise, resources and funding for upskilling and reskilling actions. The initiative, launched under the EU pact for skills, aims to train at least 30% of the workforce in the construction industry by 2030.



CREATING AN EFFICIENT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Construction Products Regulation has been revised to improve the functioning of the single market for construction products. The new rules help to enhance the sustainability of construction products by providing reliable and standardised information on their environmental performance, and by introducing products requirements related to environment and safety.



DIGITALISING CONSTRUCTION

Several Commission projects support the digitalisation of the construction industry, especially in the take up of Building Information Modelling (BIM), which helps to digitally represent the characteristics of buildings, transforming the planning, design, and execution of construction. The EU BIM Task Group has helped to set up the BIM in Public Procurement Platform, a reference point for the adoption of BIM in public construction projects in all EU Member States. Special support is also offered to SMEs wishing to take up digitalisation. The Commission also supports the development of Digital Building Permits, including with trainings and a recently developed toolkit for municipalities.



EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR OBSERVATORY

Set up by the Commission, the Observatory analyses and carries out comparative assessments on the construction ecosystem in 27 EU countries, to provide policymakers and stakeholders with up-to-date information on market conditions and policy developments.