

European Commission

European Construction Sector Observatory
Providing valuable insight on the European construction industry

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The European Construction Sector Observatory

The European Construction Sector Observatory (ECSSO) aims to inform European policymakers and industry stakeholders on the market conditions and policy developments through regular analysis and comparative assessments. Visit the [ECSSO website](#) and gain access to a wide range of industry data and analysis. ECSSO contains all the information you need to stay up to date with the latest news and practical analyses about the construction sector in Europe.

28 Country Fact Sheets, 115 Policy Fact Sheets, 6 Analytical Reports and 3 Trend Papers are now online.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

5 Updated Country Fact Sheets

5 New Policy Fact Sheets

Construction news and events

Internationalisation of the construction sector

International competitiveness plays an increasingly important role for the **long-term sustainability of the construction sector**, considering the sustained slow-down of the European market and its moderate prospects. **Construction companies are facing barriers** of access to markets, lack of finance to expand their activities or lack of potential partners in the destination markets. The European Commission plays a key role in **'business diplomacy'** and provides some **financial support to companies** in the construction sector that are willing to expand their activities beyond the EU. Such support is implemented via financial instruments and through various non-financial support measures (e.g. participating in fairs, trainings).

Updated Country Fact Sheets are online

Five updated Country Fact Sheets are now available for you to download, focusing on the construction markets of the **Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia**. The reports provide an analysis of key figures, macroeconomic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation, the national/regional policy and regulatory framework, and the status and national strategy to meet Construction 2020 objectives.

Country Fact Sheet Czech Republic

To support the internationalisation of Czech construction enterprises, [CzechTrade](#) organises trade shows, business visits and networking events. CzechTrade also facilitates the internationalisation of companies through its online database known as the **Czech Exporters Directory**. It provides detailed information on Czech exporters and their products making it easier for foreign entities to cooperate with Czech companies. Read more about the future of the construction sector in Czech Republic in the Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Greece

Greece promotes the internationalisation of Greek companies, particularly SMEs, with the [GQ International programme](#) introduced by Eurobank. The aim of the programme is to **support Greek companies in diversifying their geographical reach to Central and South-Eastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean region**. The programme enables Greek enterprises to meet with potential clients from abroad. Learn more about the internationalisation of the Greek construction sector in the Country Fact sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Portugal

To support the internationalisation of Portuguese construction companies, the [Institute of Public Real Estate and Construction Markets \(IMPIC\)](#) and [Portuguese Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade](#) have a cooperation agreement. The aim is to share information and promote measures developing internationalisation and potential markets outside the EU. The Association of Civil Engineering and Public Works Professionals also promotes the internationalisation of Portuguese enterprises through the **International Portuguese Construction Network**. The project promotes Portuguese companies in developing a support network abroad and setting up the collective brand of Global Portuguese Construction. Read more about the construction sector of Portugal in the Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Slovakia

The [Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency \(SARIO\)](#) supports the internationalisation of SMEs under the umbrella of the Foreign Economic Relations Strategy. It supplies information, advice and educational services for construction enterprises. SARIO organises **annual events for construction SMEs for export promotion and business missions** to engage in infrastructural projects with countries outside the EU. Discover more about the future of the construction sector in Slovakia in the Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Slovenia

To foster the internationalisation of Slovenian construction companies, the [Gigli Seljrn](#) organises the International Crafts and Entrepreneurship Fair (MOS) on an annual basis. The goal of the MOS B2B part of the event is to bring together companies from different countries and regions and to **promote networking, new partnerships and matchmaking opportunities**. Learn more about the internationalisation of the construction sector in Slovenia in the updated Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Policy Fact Sheets

Five new Policy Fact Sheets (PFS) are now available for you to download, focusing on policies from the **Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Portugal and Slovenia**. The PFS provide an analysis of five national policies influencing the development of the construction sector.

The Czech Republic - Support for the Construction of Sheltered Housing

The Support for the Construction of Sheltered Housing programme was launched by the Ministry of Regional Development of Czechia in 2015 to increase the supply of supported housing for people in difficult circumstances due to age, disability, health issues or low income. The budget for the programme amounted to nearly **EUR 40 million in 2017-2019**. The programme provides **grants for the construction of care facilities, starter dwellings, and senior community dwellings**. The grant applications are open to legal entities, associations, and social cooperatives. Between 2015 and 2019, **funding was provided for 1,031 care facilities and 1,234 senior community homes**. Read more about the impact of this programme in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Estonia - Public Sector Building Renovation Project

The Ministry of Finance and Estonian State Real Estate (RKAS) created the Estonian Public Sector Building Renovation Project with the objective to increase energy efficiency of existing public buildings. **The project ran between 2010-2013 with a total budget of EUR 165.7 million**. The project was considered successful, **resulting in the renovation of 543 public buildings**. The renovations resulted in a 17.5% reduction in the total energy consumption of public buildings and a 15.3% reduction in the total CO₂ emissions. Read more about this Public Sector Building Renovation Project in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Greece - Energy Service Company (ESCO) Agreement for EE Measures in Public Buildings

The Energy Service Company Agreement for Energy Efficiency Measures in Public Buildings was signed in 2012 between the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and the Centre for Renewable Energy Resources and Energy Saving. The aim of the agreement was to **upgrade the energy efficiency of public buildings, contribute to the achievement of the energy efficiency targets of 2020 and develop the ESCO market and the use of EPC in Greece**. The agreement foresaw an action plan of activities between 2012 and 2015 with a total budget of **EUR 750,000**. The objective was to save 5,184 MWh of energy annually and reach total savings of 2%. It **aimed to create 38 jobs per year as well as an annual economic benefits for public bodies of EUR 674,000**. To learn more about the results of the agreement, consult the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Portugal - Financial Instruments for Urban Rehabilitation & Revitalisation

The Portuguese Financial Instruments for Urban Rehabilitation and Revitalisation (IFRU) programme was launched by the Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation with a **budget of EUR 1.4 billion in 2016**. IFRU loans, compared to other loans available to applicants, comprises of a 50% loan funding from a bank at an current interest rate. The remaining part of the loan is **funded publicly at a 0% interest rate**. The programme covers expenses for conducting studies, plans and projects, construction and engineering works and specific expenses related to energy efficiency. The programme is outperforming its targets, and it has **reached 25% of its 2023 targets for building renovations**. Read more about the Financial Instruments for Urban Rehabilitation & Revitalisation in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Slovenia - Eco Fund - Almost Zero Energy Buildings: Subsidy

The Eco Fund was introduced by the Slovenian Ministry of Environment in 2008 with a **budget of EUR 18.5 million for improving the energy efficiency of buildings**. The Fund provides **financial support through loans to legal entities, traders, and individuals as well as grants to individuals, legal entities and municipalities**. The subsidy programme provides financial support for the construction of a nearly zero energy use building, the renovation of an old building, and the purchase of a dwelling in a new or renovated almost zero energy building. It **aims to achieve 7,336 GWh in energy savings by the end of 2020**. Learn more about the Almost Zero Energy Buildings Subsidy in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Construction News and Events

Construction is changing rapidly, with new business models, concepts and technologies being introduced to best respond to new demands and requirements. To keep you aware, please find below a quick summary of fresh news and upcoming events.

Fresh Construction News

Fresh study on Internationalisation of SMEs from the European construction sector in third markets

The European Commission has published a new report on the Internationalisation of SMEs from the European construction sector outside the EU. The report provides an analysis of Construction SMEs' needs related to internationalisation, provides an overview of available support schemes and existing gaps. Finally, the study includes a set of recommendations on the optimal support for construction SMEs wishing to expand their activities outside the EU.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

Company mission to Switzerland with a focus on sustainable architecture and new materials/composites

19 - 21 March | Switzerland

The Enterprise Europe network is organising a business mission to Switzerland for German companies. The Mission aims to give participants an insight into the latest Swiss developments in the field of lightweight construction and the possibilities of their integration into the whole urban system. The Mission will take two days and will cover the presentation of the 'Dreispliz Areal' living concept in Zurich.

[See more](#)

EU Gateways matchmaking mission to South East Asia for companies in construction and technologies

02 - 08 November | Philippines & Singapore

The EU Gateway Business Avenues mission for construction and technologies will take place in the Philippines and Singapore in November 2020. The mission week will include gathering 50 European companies to showcase their products and services and gain contacts at the PHILCONSTRUCT exhibition for construction and building industry in the Philippines. In addition, participants will be provided with market and business coaching before the event. The mission week will take place on the 2nd - 8th November 2020 and registration is open until the 19th June 2020.

[See more](#)

The Big 5 International Building & Construction Show

23 - 26 November | United Arab Emirates

The Big 5 International Building & Construction Show will bring together 66,000 investors, suppliers and experts in the construction industry. The event will include workshops, business networking and sales opportunities. It will also provide trainings and education workshops on the construction industry.

[See more](#)

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