

The European Construction Sector Observatory

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

28 Country Fact Sheets, 130 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



Investment in the construction sector

The construction sector plays a key role in the development of the European economy. Overall, while the sector witnessed positive development in terms of volume of production and investments, it is expected to slow down in the coming years. To mitigate this issue, governments and (or together with) the construction companies, have developed several policies and measures to maintain the (sustainable) growth of the sector. This newsletter touches on some of the government-led investment initiatives for sustainable development (notably energy and resource efficient renovation and urban development).

Updated Country Fact Sheets are online

Five updated Country Fact Sheets are now available for you to download, focusing on the construction markets in France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden. 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 current status and national strategy to meet Construction 2020 objectives.



Country Fact Sheet France

Investment in air, rail, inland waterways and sea transport infrastructure in France has increased by EUR 4.1 billion between 2010 and 2017. This growth is expected to continue and reach EUR 4 billion by the end of 2020. In addition, the French government is planning to invest EUR 13.7 billion in improving transport and mobility infrastructure until 2023. This represents an increase of 40% compared to the previous five-year period and may open market opportunities for the construction sector. Read more about the future of the construction sector in France in the new Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)



Country Fact Sheet Ireland

Investment in real estate activities in Ireland have increased by 92% since 2010, reaching EUR 9.6 billion in 2018. This partly relates to a nearly 85% increase in the investment in dwellings since 2015, showing that one of the key drivers of the construction sector is the housing market. This growth is also supported by the government, which provides aid to improve the housing situation as part of the [National Development Plan](#) and the [National Planning Framework](#) (also called Project Ireland 2040). In fact, the [Land Development Agency](#) handles implementing a plan to build 150,000 homes in Ireland over the next 20 years at a cost of EUR 1.3 billion. Learn more about the future of the housing stock in Ireland in the Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)



Country Fact Sheet Latvia

Investment in non-residential construction and civil engineering in Latvia witnessed a growth of nearly 60% between 2010 and 2018. Investment in road infrastructure increased to EUR 226 million in 2017 from EUR 131 million in 2010. Similarly, investment in road maintenance also increased to EUR 177 million compared to EUR 113 million in 2010. In 2014-2019 Latvian beneficiaries participated in 12 projects Under the Connecting Europe Facility and received €271.9 million in CEF Transport co-funding, with total investments in these projects of EUR 365.4 million. Discover more about the future of the construction sector in Latvia in the updated Country Fact Sheet.

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Country Fact Sheet Lithuania

Investment in the Lithuanian non-residential construction and civil engineering increased by nearly 30% between the period 2010 and 2018. This growth in the construction sector is mainly driven by EU funding focusing especially on developing energy efficient infrastructure. In November 2019, the total financing approved under the European Fund for Strategic Investments amounted to EUR 386.0 million, with an additional investment of EUR 1.8 billion set to be triggered. In addition, as Lithuania reaches the end of the EU funded cycle, the availability of funds is expected to increase in the latter half of 2020, further boosting the growth of the construction sector. Find out more about the future of the construction sector in Lithuania in the updated Country Fact Sheet.

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Country Fact Sheet Sweden

Between 2015 and 2018, investment in non-residential construction and civil engineering in Sweden saw an increase of almost 17%. Investment in infrastructure has seen the largest growth particularly in the air traffic infrastructure which has increased by 439.2%, in absolute terms from EUR 78.8 million to EUR 424.7 million between 2010 and 2017. This growth is supported by EU funding through European Structural and Investment Funds, creating further opportunities for the construction sector. Through 13 national programmes supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds the construction sector will have been provided with EUR 3.6 billion by the end of 2020. Learn more about the construction sector in Sweden in the country Fact Sheet.

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Policy Fact Sheets

Five new Policy Fact Sheets (PFS) are now available for you to download, focusing on policies in Belgium, Bulgaria, Malta, Poland and Sweden. The PFS provide an analysis of five national policies influencing the development of the construction sector.



Belgium - Flemish Renovation Grant Scheme

To improve the quality and energy efficiency of the older residential stock in Flanders, the [Flemish Ministry of Finance and Budget, Housing and Immovable Heritage](#) and the [Flemish Housing Agency](#) developed in 2007 the [Flemish Renovation Grant Scheme](#). The scheme aimed at encouraging Flemish owners to carry out renovations on 30+ year old residential dwellings. Eligible renovation works include structural works, roof improvements, technical installations such as electrical installations and sanitary installations etc. The programme ran from 2007 to 2019 with a budget of EUR 55-100 million per year. The programme covered between 20% and 30% of eligible renovation works, and awarded between 2007 and 2018 over 95,000 grants. Read more about the impact of this initiative in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)



Bulgaria - Residential Energy Efficiency Credit Line

To deal with the energy efficiency challenges of the building stock in Bulgaria, the [Bulgarian Ministry of Energy](#), together with the European Commission and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development set up the [Residential Energy Efficiency Credit Line](#) programme in 2005. The objective of the programme was to increase the capacity of Bulgarian banks to issue loans covering energy efficiency upgrades. Individual loans ranged from EUR 250 to EUR 51,130 for dwellings and to EUR 200,000 for multi-dwellings buildings with an 8% interest rate and a 10-year repayment period. With a budget of EUR 110 million in loans and EUR 29 million in grants, the programme managed to support 65,000 projects between 2005 and 2019. Learn more about the Residential Energy Efficiency Credit Line programme in the new Policy Fact Sheet.


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Malta - Restore Your Home

The [Restore Your Home](#) grant scheme was introduced by the [Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and Capital Projects](#) and the [Planning Authority](#) and has been running since 2017. The aim of the scheme is to support the restoration, conservation and maintenance of the residential and commercial buildings making up Malta's built heritage. The scheme is open to private owners of buildings within the [Urban Conservation Area and of Grade 1 and Grade 2](#) listed buildings. The grant scheme has been successful thus far, as 1,700 applicants benefited from a total financing of EUR 18 million during the first two years of implementation. Find out more about the results of the Restore Your Home grant scheme, consult the new Policy Fact Sheet.

[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)



Poland - Thermal Modernisation and Renovation Fund

The [Thermal Modernisation and Renovation Fund](#) was launched by the Polish government in 1999 and is still in operation today. The Fund provides grants and soft loans to support the thermal modernisation and renovation of residential building stock. It is administered by the National Development Bank [Gospodartwa Krajowego](#). It targets the renovation of apartment buildings including replacement or installation of external wall insulation and windows. Grants are awarded to individuals, housing communities, housing cooperatives and social associations. With a total budget of EUR 600 million, the Fund has supported nearly 43,000 projects. Discover more about the Thermal Modernisation and Renovation Fund loans and grants in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

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Sweden - Hammarby Sjöstad Sustainable District

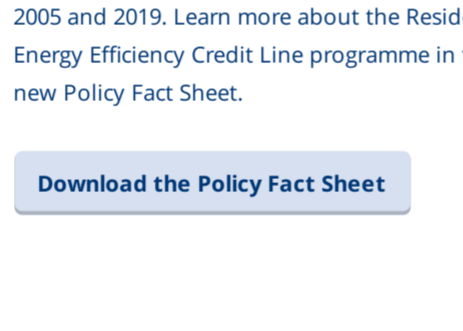
In 2004, the [Stockholm City Council](#) launched a plan to rehabilitate the [Hammarby Sjöstad](#) district with the objective of making it more sustainable. The project is still ongoing and is expected to be fully implemented by 2025. The project has a total budget of EUR 3 billion (2015) with a EUR 500 million contribution from public institutions. The planned activities focus on land use, transportation, water and drainage, waste and recycling and energy. The preliminary results are positive: all contaminated soils have been sanitised, 80% of commuters now walk, cycle or use public transportation, water consumption per person is 60% lower compared to similar districts etc. Find out more about the Hammarby Sjöstad plan 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 news and upcoming events.

Fresh Construction News



Policy Report on Accelerating energy renovation investments in buildings

The [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) has published a new policy report on accelerating energy renovation investments in buildings. Investment in the residential sector is mainly dedicated to building performance measures, with a view to meet the EU energy efficiency target for 2030 and contribute to the transitioning towards energy neutral system. The report examines the existing public and private financial and fiscal mechanisms for energy renovation of buildings. In addition, it provides an overview of Member States public schemes recognised in the EU, notably examining the industry-led measures to promote energy efficient investment in buildings and identifies good practices.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

Trade fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation | 5 - 7 November | Germany



The Denkmal Trade Fair is the leading event in Restoration and Old Building Renovation in Germany. The aim of the fair is to serve as an information platform, facilitate new business relationships, cultivate contacts targeting particularly professionals in the construction industry, owners of historical buildings, investors, builders, restorers etc. It is expected that over 400 exhibitors will attend the event. The Trade Fair will take place from the 5th to the 7th November 2020 in Leipzig, Germany. Online tickets will be available from September 2020.

[See more](#)

International Exhibition of Material, Techniques and Construction Solutions | 10 - 13 November | Spain



The CONSTRUTEC trade fair aims to attract manufacturers, installers, construction professionals, industry planners and suppliers among others, and help them build business relationships. The CONSTRUTEC is a major event for construction materials, techniques and construction solutions sector. It is expected that over 1500 companies will be present at the event. The trade fair will feature a new sector known as Construtec Zero. This sector will focus on the promotion of energy efficiency and sustainable construction as well as the promotion of products, thus raising awareness of construction professionals around sustainable construction. The fair will take place from the 10th to the 13th November 2020 in Madrid in Spain.

[See more](#)