

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 our **website** and gain access to a wide range of industry data and analysis. **ECSO** has all the information for you to stay up to date with the latest news and practical analyses about the European Construction sector. 28 Country Fact Sheets, 155 Policy Fact Sheets, 7 Analytical Reports, 3 Trend Papers and our **updated website** are now online.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

4 Updated Country Factsheets

3 New Policy Fact Sheets

Updated ECSO Website







construction markets in Estonia, Ireland, Latvia and Lithuania. The reports provide an analysis of key figures, macroeconomic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation

Updated Country Fact Sheets are online

Four updated Country Fact Sheets are now available for download, focusing on the

and the national/regional policy and regulatory framework. **Country Fact Sheet Estonia**



Country Fact Sheet Ireland

In the last decade, investments in the Irish

construction sector have increased by 54% overall. Investments have been made in Ireland housing

and renovation, civil engineering, research &

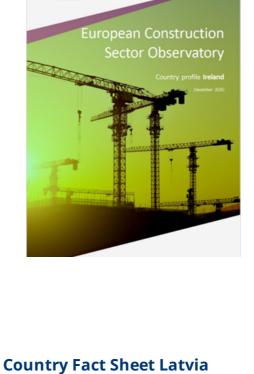
last decade. Infrastructure investment is one of the biggest focal areas of the country. For

construction sector have been increasing over the

Overall, investments into the Estonian

example, the Rail Baltica project has a budget of EUR 1.3 billion that came primarily from **EU funding for sustainable transport**, of which the European Investment Bank invested EUR 95.0 million for the modernisation and upgrade of the railway network. Government-related initiatives also help finance the **housing market**, machinery and intellectual property, as well as research & innovation. Additionally, Estonia aims to make financing more accessible by creating a favourable legal environment for alternative sources of finance e.g. crowdfunding and venture capital. Read more about Estonian investments in the new Country Fact Sheet **Download the Country Fact Sheet**

development, and infrastructure. The government has earmarked a total of EUR 116.0 billion for public infrastructure and capital works as part of "Project Ireland 2040". The Dublin Metro and the M20 motorway are among the projects that will benefit from the funding. EU investment also plays a role, namely in **urban** development. These investments will be crucial to support the recovery of the sector. Read more about the construction sector in Ireland in the new Country Fact Sheet. **Download the Country Fact Sheet**





Country Fact Sheet Lithuania

infrastructure development. As of September

2020, 13 projects have been financed, including projects relating to the <u>Trans-European Transport</u> Network, amounting to EUR 440 million and with further investment foreseen for the future. To foster SME investments, an **Accelerator Fund** was set up in February 2019, financed under the

Investment in Lithuania's construction sector has been increasing steadily, with funds primarily allocated to civil engineering and residential **building** projects. The country benefits from the European Fund for Strategic Investments for

dropped by 5%. From January to October 2020, the Latvian government enabled and supported

Latvia's construction investments have

experienced both ups and downs, depending on the sub-sector. For example, non-residential construction and civil engineering grew by 15% in the last 5 years, while dwelling investment

construction start-ups and micro enterprise investments. They created, for instance, the 'Support for start-ups' programme to make funding more accessible through aid programmes. Additionally, Latvia's state-owned development institution, $\underline{\text{ALTUM}}$ allocated EUR 15 million in loans to 600 micro-businesses between 2018 and 2021 with support from the European Investment Fund. Read more about the future of the construction sector in Latvia in the new Country Fact Sheet. **Download the Country Fact Sheet**

European Regional Development Fund to promote the growth of SMEs, boost entrepreneurship, and create a suitable environment for risk capital investments. Read more about financing in the construction sector in Lithuania in the new Country Fact Sheet. **Download the Country Fact Sheet New Policy Fact Sheets are online** Three new Policy Fact Sheets (PFS) are now available for download, focusing on policies in Ireland, Sweden and the Netherlands. The PFS provide a clear view of three national policies and the various public investments made to address construction sector challenges.



an average of **over 30 EPDs per year**. Many private enterprises are investing in the

aim of transitioning to greener building

the new Policy Fact Sheet.

Ireland - EPD Ireland

Programme

The <u>Irish Green Building Council</u> launched the EPD Ireland programme in 2018, with the financial support of the national Environmental Protection **European Construction Sector** Agency's (EPA) Green Enterprise programme. The programme certifies sustainable construction products (EPDs). So far, nearly 100 EPDs have





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Sweden - Build 4.0 (Bygg 4.0) In 2017, Public Housing Sweden started the <u>Build 4.0</u> programme with **a budget of about** EUR 120 000 to design a completely digital construction process for residential buildings. Their work was supported by **Smart Built**

100 000 online followers, over 400 mentions in academic papers, 68 published reports and have launched nearly 300 events worldwide since 2018. Discover more in the new Policy Fact Sheet.

<u>Circle Economy</u> is a not-for-profit organisation

philanthropic partners and pro-bono

an open platform and launching several **initiatives** helping communities and companies with the transition. To date, they have over

that aims to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. The organisation's budget comes from

partnerships, and is geared towards maintaining

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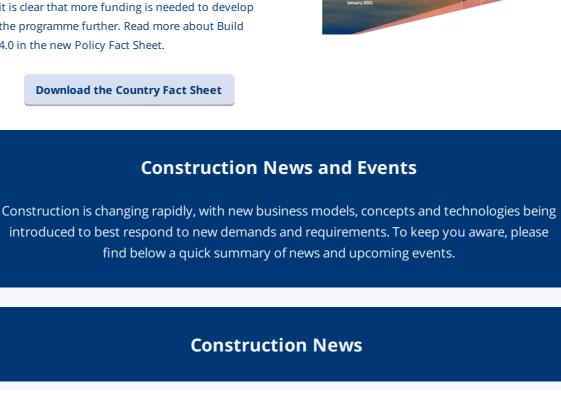
Housing, Building and Planning. The programme was created to **reduce construction costs** and environmental impact as well as to improve the quality of buildings and building methods. After examining the challenges encountered in many of the programme projects over the last three years,

Environment, the Swedish Research Council ("Formas") and the Swedish National Board of

it is clear that more funding is needed to develop the programme further. Read more about Build 4.0 in the new Policy Fact Sheet. **Download the Country Fact Sheet Construction News and Events** find below a quick summary of news and upcoming events.

European construction sector observatory

What are ECSO's objectives?



Website update of ECSO

The Furonean Construction Sector Observatory website is getting a makeover. In addition to an improved aesthetic and easier navigation, the updated site now includes two additional

functions: a data mapper allowing you to

visualise a wide range of construction data, and a search tool to help you find all the most relevant information and publications. Discover the improvements here!



WØRLD ECONOMIC FORUM

EIB Investment Report

This European Investment Bank report looks at the toll the pandemic has taken on European firms' investment and plans, as well as their efforts to meet the demands of climate change and the digital revolution. The report provides

2020-2021

materials.

mix of online and in-person sessions.

Read the full ILO brief

published a brief about the impact of the pandemic on the construction sector. Although it does not solely focus on the European Union, the report addresses several general issues that have affected the construction sector everywhere. It discusses not only the impact on enterprises and disruptions in supply chains, but moreover, the impact on workers, their health and safety and

the gaps in social protections.



renovations, another solution is to open such opportunities to the consumer market. This article

also assesses whether the right set of technologies and incentives are currently

International

Organization

deployed across European countries. Read the full article

Building a smart

and green Europe

in the COVID-19 era

some insights into the construction sector investments, particularly those relating to resource and energy efficiency and also digitalisation. It is important to note that construction is the sector with the lowest share of firms that invest in energy-efficiency – less than

companies tend to be heavy users of energy, investment in energy efficiency can significantly reduce their operating costs. Download the full report

half of construction firms make energy-efficiency investments. Given that many construction





Modelling at the World Trade Centre in Barcelona. Two days will feature dozens of speakers, explore nine case studies and offer three round tables. Between 500 and 1000 delegates are expected to take part in a

BIM EUROPEAN SUMMIT Barcelona 2021

Find out more **GREEN BUILDING**

April 2021 (to be confirmed): Zagreb, Croatia

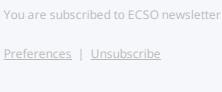




12-15 May 2021: Sophia, Bulgaria The International Exhibition for Energy Efficient, Ecological and Functional Construction is taking place in Sophia this year. In addition to the countless stands with innovative construction-related companies,

various seminars will be held each day. Stands are still available to book.

Find out more



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