




Providing valuable **insight** on the **European construction industry**

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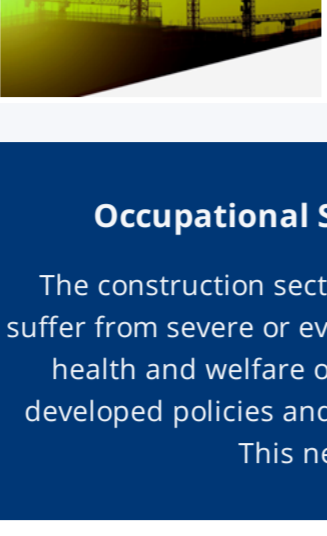
## The European Construction Sector Observatory

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.

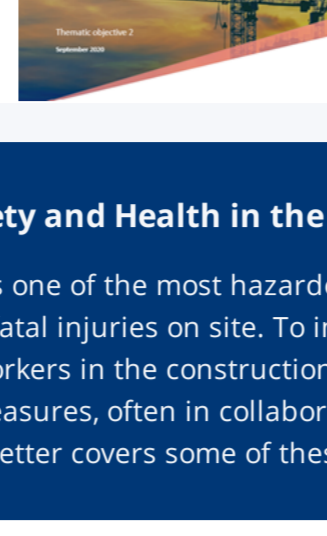
**28 Country Fact Sheets, 160 Policy Fact Sheets, 7 Analytical Reports, 3 Trend Papers** and our **updated website** are now online.

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:**


**2 Updated Country Fact Sheets**



**5 New Policy Fact Sheets**



**We want your feedback**



## Occupational Safety and Health in the construction sector

The construction sector is one of the most hazardous industries. Workers can suffer from severe or even fatal injuries on site. To improve and ensure the safety, health and welfare of workers in the construction sector, governments have developed policies and measures, often in collaboration with the private sector. This newsletter covers some of these initiatives.



**Country Fact Sheet Hungary**

The Hungarian government requires companies to have a professional liability insurance before signing a construction contract. Furthermore, **contractors may be required to secure liability insurance** to cover losses, damages and, most importantly, **injuries to the contractor's employees**. In 2019, there were **567,607 persons employed in the broad construction sector**, a 36% increase from 2010, of which just over 90% were employed by SMEs. This highlights the importance of **facilitating OSH implementation for small and medium-sized construction companies** in Hungary. Read more about the Hungarian construction sector in the new Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)



**Country Fact Sheet Sweden**

In Sweden, construction contracts are controlled by the **Construction Contracts Committee BKK**, that **standardises the conditions and liabilities of all parties involved for each construction project**. The law on construction coverage requires that contractors be protected through insurance or a bank guarantee. The protection must cover the design, planning, building and guarantee period, which is usually five years. **OSH-related securities and warranties are only available on a voluntary basis**. Find out more about the construction industry in Sweden in the new Country Fact Sheet.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

## New Policy Fact Sheets are online

Five Policy Fact Sheets (PFS) are available for you to download, focusing on policies in Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, and Poland. The PFS provide an analysis of five national policies influencing the development of the construction sector in the area of OHS.

### Austria - Construction Fit (BAUfit)


Studies found that about 66% of workers in Austria reported some form of musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) between 2007 and 2013. The **General Accident Insurance Institution (GIV)** started the **Construction Fit (BAUfit)** programme to support construction companies in reducing accidents at work and stress to the musculoskeletal system. The programme aims to **raise awareness of MSD** and other construction-related health hazards through training and education. They **provide support and advice** on physical aspects of work, such as movement, lifting or posture and offer training modules on psychosocial issues. As a result, participating companies have seen a **drop of 50% in the number of sick days** taken by employees, and a **reduction of 25% of workplace accidents**. Read more about the Austrian Construction Fit programme in the Policy Fact Sheet.



[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

### Finland - Zero Accidents in the Construction Industry 2020


The rates of accidents and fatalities in the Finnish construction sector have been falling steadily over the last two decades. As such, Finland is committed to **eliminating accidents together** under the premise that all accidents are preventable. The **Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries (CFI)** launched the Zero Accidents in Construction by 2020 initiative in Finland with an aim of **increasing awareness of OSH issues and solutions** in the sector. CFI also created a **Zero Accidents vision and strategy**, which they encourage their 2000+ member companies to implement. Since 2005, the **accident rates have fallen by 75%**. The dramatic reduction of accidents demonstrated the initiative's effectiveness and the potential of zero accidents. Discover more about Finland's Zero Accidents initiative in the Policy Fact Sheet.



[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

### Germany - Good Construction Initiative

The **Good Construction Initiative (OGI)** is made up of an **independent network of over 120 organisations from across the construction sector**. It operates under the umbrella of the **'New Quality of Work Initiative'** of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The initiative aims to establish common rules, principles, instruments and tools to **help provide safer working conditions** for German employees. Since its launch in 2005, the OGI not only improved working conditions, but also played a role in increasing the quality of the products themselves. **Participation in the initiative has risen by 150%** since it started, with a trend towards growth in the future. Learn more about the Good Construction Initiative in the Policy Fact Sheet.



[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

### Ireland - BeSMART.ie for Construction

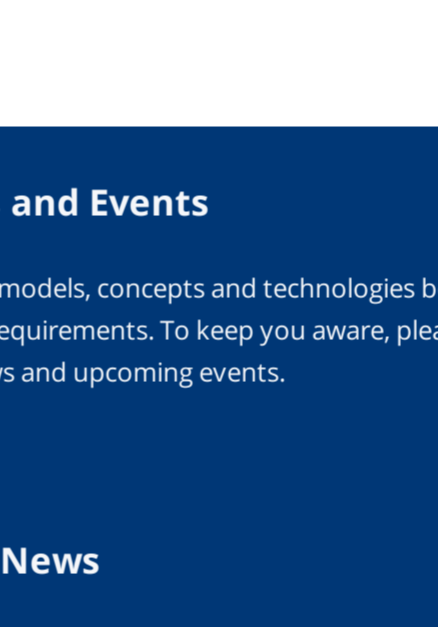
In Ireland, **work-related injuries affect an average of 150 employees per day** across the whole of the economy. The law requires all Irish companies to risk assess their work activities and any potential hazards linked to such activities. To facilitate this, the **Health and Safety Authority (HSA)** created **BeSMART.ie**, a **free and easy-to-use online tool** to prepare risk assessments and safety certificates. Employees benefit from creating and updating safety certificates at no cost **while at the same time improving the health and safety of their workplaces**. Nine years after its launch, **BeSMART has garnered over 7200 registered users**. Find out more about the BeSMART online tool in the Policy Fact Sheet.



[Download the Policy Fact Sheet](#)

### Poland - 'Construction Site Stop the Accidents' Initiative

The **National Labour Inspectorate of Poland (NLI)** created the **'Construction Site Stop the Accidents'** Initiative (CSA) in response to data indicating that **28% of work fatalities occur in the construction sector**. The initiative raises awareness on **preventative measures for construction site accidents**, combined with **education programmes** for construction companies. Since 2014, **over 7700 employees have been trained in safety practices**. The NLI also hosts **'Safety Weeks'** in collaboration with the private sector, which has welcomed more than 3500 participants over the years. **The sector has seen its accident rate drop** since the implementation of the initiative, a sign that it is working. However, NLI admits that building an **effective and sustainable safety culture in the construction sector** requires a long-term approach. Read more about the 'Construction Site Stop the Accidents' Initiative in the 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.

### Construction News

### Napo in Lighten the Load - 2021



The **Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2020-2022** launched a new series of short films as part of their 'Lighten the Load' initiative. The video of short clips shows the main character, Napo, in various work situations that could cause musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The most frequently identified MSD risks are repetitive hand or arm movements and lifting or moving heavy loads. The video raises alarms about potentially hazardous physical movements and offers practical solutions to prevent or relieve injuries. The films are intended to be watched by all employees, including migrant and temporary workers.



[Watch the video](#)

### Implementation of the Construction Products Regulation


On 10 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the **Implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)**. The Regulation's purpose is to remove technical barriers to trade in construction products in order to enhance their free movement in the Internal Market. CPR also ensures that those products are fit for their intended use and meet their declared performance, taking into account the health, safety and environmental aspects related to their use, regardless of where they are manufactured.

[Learn more about the Regulation](#)

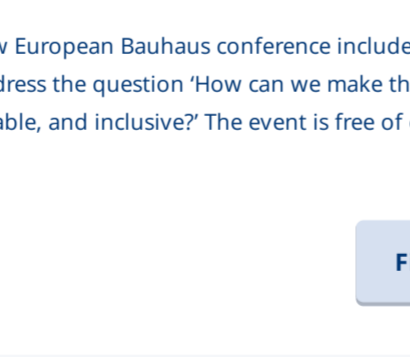
### We want your feedback

The **European Construction Sector Observatory (ECSO)** established in 2015, regularly analyses and carries out **comparative assessments of the construction sector in all 27 EU countries**. The objectives that are focused on are: 1) financing and digitalisation, 2) skills and qualifications, 3) resource efficiency, 4) regulatory framework / internal market and 5) international competitiveness. In order to provide you with **valuable information and relevant analysis**, we invite you to take this short survey and give us your feedback.



[Take the survey](#)

## Upcoming Events



beautiful · sustainable · together

22-23 APRIL 2021

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS CONFERENCE

**22-23 April 2021: online, organised by the European Commission**

The New European Bauhaus conference includes multiple speakers, panel discussions and workshops that address the question 'How can we make the places where we live and our experiences more beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive?' The event is free of charge and open to everyone.

[Find out more](#)

### European Construction Sector Observatory Webinar



**29 April 2021: online, organised by the European Commission**

Save the date for a **virtual presentation** that will highlight the European Construction Sector Observatory's key activities and outputs, as well as its updated website. In addition, part of the event will be dedicated to the topic of digitalisation in the construction sector with a view to discuss its state of play, drivers and challenges, and recommendations for an EU policy intervention.

[Register](#)

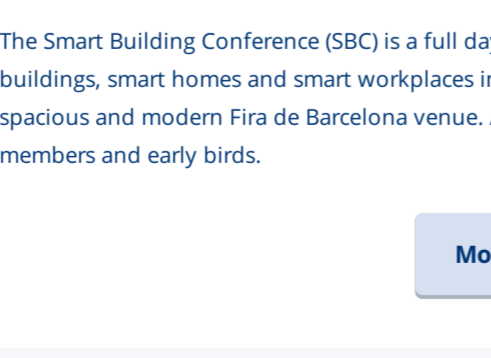
### 12-15 May 2021: Sofia, Bulgaria



The International Exhibition for Energy Efficient, Ecological and Functional Construction is taking place in Sofia this year. In addition to the countless stands with innovative construction-related companies, there will be various seminars each day.

[Find out more](#)

### 31 May 2021: Barcelona, Spain



The Smart Building Conference (SBC) is a full day in-person event. Professionals working in the smart buildings, smart homes and smart workplaces industry are invited to attend. SBC will take place at the spacious and modern Fira de Barcelona venue. Admission is EUR 390 or EUR 273 for AVDA and CEDIA members and early birds.

[More information](#)

### 29 June - 1 July 2021: Lyon, France



The **BePOSITIVE** trade show is dedicated to energy transition matters and solutions, namely, new energy systems, energy in buildings, sustainable buildings and wood energy. BePOSITIVE brings together many building and energy stakeholders and creates opportunities for networking.

[Find out more](#)

European Construction Sector Observatory

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