



European Construction Sector Observatory
Providing valuable insight on the construction industry

ECOSO would like to invite you to participate in our feedback survey. We'd like to get your opinions on how we're doing, and what we can improve. Take 10 minutes to participate in the survey!

[Subscribe to ECOSO updates](#)

The European Construction Sector Observatory

The **European Construction Sector Observatory** aims to inform European policymakers and industry stakeholders about the market conditions and policy developments through regular analysis and comparative assessments. Visit the [ECOSO website](#) and gain access to a wide range of industry data and analysis. **ECOSO** 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, 185 Policy Fact Sheets, 9 Analytical Reports and 4 Trend Papers are now online.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

- 5 New Policy Fact Sheets
- 6 Updated Country Fact Sheets
- ECOSO Survey



EU Internal Market for Construction

There are several policies and measures that can be adopted by Member States to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour throughout the European Union, especially as it pertains to the construction sector. Such policies and measures should remove or prevent any obstacles to this freedom of movement. Efforts in the construction sector are focussed on the standardisation of labelling construction goods for export, transparency and simplification of the provision and use of construction services, the recognition of professional qualifications across EU countries, and digital solutions. Measures that take these factors into account successfully help strengthen the EU internal market for construction.

[Policy Fact Sheets](#)

Five new Policy Fact Sheets (PFS) are now available for download, focusing on policies in Denmark, Finland, France, Lithuania, and Latvia. The PFS provide an analysis of national policies influencing the development of five of the EU MS internal markets for the construction sector.

Denmark - ICT Regulations for Construction

Denmark continues to be a frontrunner in digital construction, with one of the most developed construction sectors in the world. It was the first country to introduce legislation mandating the use of information and communication technologies in construction work in 2007. Danish ICT regulations have encouraged the large-scale adoption and use of BIM, with 78% of construction companies using the technology in project design and delivery according to a survey from 2018. Construction stakeholders benefit at the project level, as BIM facilitates integrated planning, better communication and collaboration, better process and data control, and provides for fewer errors and faster delivery. The Biopigepri Hospital site is a flagship Danish BIM project with a budget of EUR 600 million.



[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Finland - Digital Building Permit Process Using BIM

In 2016, Finland launched the **REPA-digi** programme, worth EUR 18 million in matched funding provided by the government and the construction sector, that was tasked with developing digital public services. One of the programme's pilot projects was a new digital building permit process using BIM in the city of Vantaa. After being completed in March 2017, the pilot demonstrated that all the information needed to grant a building permit can be made available and interpreted directly from the BIM model. Moreover, Vantaa's building inspectors could use 3D urban information models to inspect buildings in order to check compliance with building codes using cityscopes, facilitating their analysis process. The Digital Building Permit Process Pilot Project addressed several perspectives, such as data accuracy, standardisation, and operational models.



[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)

France - DEMOCLES C&W Management Platform

The **DEMOCLES Collaborative Construction and Demolition Waste (C&W) Management Platform** was formed to help the construction and demolition sector to comply with the French Energy Law, and to help increase the reuse and recycling rate for building waste. By bringing partners and stakeholders from across the value chain together, the French government took a holistic and inclusive approach to identifying barriers for change to co-develop solutions and change enablers. DEMOCLES has shown that up to 80% of secondary construction material waste can be recycled at no extra cost. A total of 46 projects, being run by contracting authorities and project owners, are currently receiving support from DEMOCLES.



[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Lithuania - Klaipeda Port Master Plan

Foreign trade is a key contributor to Lithuania's national economy and Klaipeda Port is an important facilitator of that trade. The Klaipeda Port Master Plan received approval in 2019 by Lithuanian government and is now at an early stage of implementation. The plan proposes ambitious targets that would transform the port into the most competitive seaport hub in the Baltic Sea by 2040. Several investment projects have been launched under the masterplan, including the Breakwaters Reconstruction Project worth EUR 40 million, the new ferry infrastructure worth EUR 20 million, and the Klaipeda Port Dredging Project with a total budget of EUR 46.6 million.



[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Latvia - Construction Information System - Round 2

In 2018, the Latvian Government introduced an amendment to the Construction Law to make all construction process documentation fully digital. The Construction Information System (CIS) Project - Round 1 was completed at a cost of EUR 5.8 million. It allowed all construction-related formal administrative procedures in Latvia to be completed online, from the registration of project plans to project commissioning. Round 2 is building on the achievements of its predecessor by implementing new functionalities and processes. These include building coordination and decision-making functionalities, the use of electronic time and attendance data in construction supervision, a CIS mobile app, and a construction waste disposal inventory. Some of the main targets are to create a single construction document review process to be used in Latvia, increasing the speed of processing, increasing the construction-related documentation, and making the process more transparent and traceable overall.




[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheets

Six updated Country Fact Sheets are now available for download, focusing on the construction markets in Estonia, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden. The reports provide an analysis of key figures, macroeconomic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation and the national/regional policies and regulatory frameworks.

Country Fact Sheet Estonia


Estonia shows a high level of trade integration in the single market for goods and services, both being well above the EU27 average. Estonia's performance in public procurement is improving compared to previous years, especially in terms of publication rates, and cooperative procurement. The Public Procurement State Register provides procurement services such as company registration and a procurement portal. Companies are encouraged to use a specialised public procurement design tool in order to mitigate corruption risks. The country ranks high in ease of access to markets for new and growing firms. SMEs in Estonia are assisted in adhering to European standards by the Estonian Centre for Standardisation. However, raising awareness about the existence of these services is warranted to ensure wider use of these resources.



[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet France

The French government has introduced several measures to promote and develop its domestic SME environment. For instance, the Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation (PACTE - Plan d'Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Entreprises), was adopted in 2019 and is intended to simplify the obligations connected with employee thresholds, thereby helping SMEs to grow. In addition, the Plan will streamline regulations for entrepreneurs by creating a single online platform for business formalities, which is expected to be in place by 2023. France also adopted performance-based standards that facilitate the mutual recognition of technical rules between Member States.



[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Ireland

Ireland continues to perform very well in terms of the internal market information system. The government facilitates the provision of cross-border construction services and, specifically, the admission of EU engineers and professional engineering organisations. Professional qualifications are recognised through the Mutual Recognition Agreements between Engineers Ireland (the national professional body). The country has also worked toward standardising construction goods. 25 Eurocode Parts were made compulsory for the design and construction of road structures, as required by the National Roads Authority, and their use in public procurement is regulated.



[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Latvia

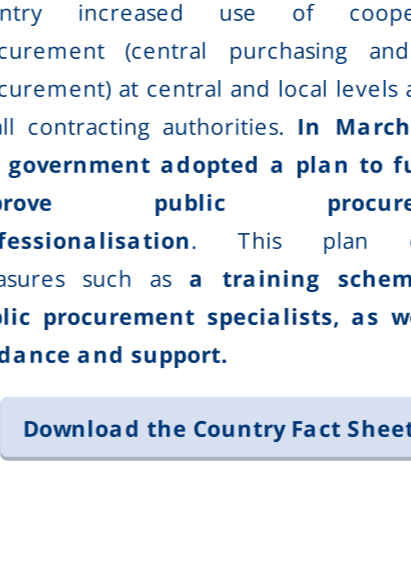
Overall, Latvia performed well in the 2021 EU Single Market Scoreboard metrics. The highest scores were in transposing EU Directives, internal market information systems and trade integration in the Single Markets. The country's main difficulties are with the proportion of procurement calls that only have one bidder, to which the contract is awarded. More than a third of Latvian companies believe that corruption has prevented them from winning a public tender. In response to such concerns, the government adopted the Guidelines for Prevention and Combating Corruption for 2015-2020, in public procurement. With respect to the implementation of Eurocodes, all Parts are published as National Standards, with 48 Parts translated into the Latvian language.



[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Lithuania

As per the EU Single Market Scorecard 2020, Lithuania scored above average for several indicators. The government has increased the speed at which EU Directives are transposed into national law. Lithuania has also improved the environment for businesses to participate in public procurement. The country increased use of cooperative procurement (central purchasing and joint procurement at central and local levels) and by small contracting authorities. In March 2019, the government adopted a plan to further improve public procurement professionalisation. This plan includes measures such as a training scheme for public procurement specialists, as well as guidance and support.



[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)

Country Fact Sheet Sweden

Sweden's top performance was in EU's single digital gateway aimed at providing access to information, procedures, assistance and problem-solving services for SMEs. As part of the Swedish national export strategy, coordination of export support services is offered at the regional level to SMEs that want to export their goods and services. Sweden has set up an e-business portal (www.verksam.se) through which more than 45 different government agencies provide information, targeted support and other services such as company registrations and tax calculation. Furthermore, in September 2018, an agency for digital government was established to develop, coordinate and support public sector digitalisation at both the central and local levels.



[Download the Country 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

ECOSO Survey

To ensure that ECOSO provides information and analysis of value to stakeholders, we would like to invite you to complete a short questionnaire, which is divided into four sections. The first section contains questions on the quality and relevance of our publications. The second section focuses on the webpage update and on its design and usefulness. The third section aims to get feedback on your communication preferences. Finally, the fourth section aims at collecting feedback and input on the future development of ECOSO. Your feedback is important to us!

[Participate in the survey](#)

EeB PPP Project Review 2021 available online

ECTP and its Energy Efficient Buildings (EEB) Committee have just released the ninth - and last - edition of the EeB PPP Project Review. This publication presents the progress of a portfolio of 103 projects co-funded within the EeB initiative of the Horizon 2020 programme between 2014 and 2020. The Energy Efficient Buildings (EEB) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) was a joint initiative of the European Commission and the construction industry, represented by the ECTP EEB Committee. It aimed at promoting research on new methods and technologies to accelerate the process of reduction of energy use in new and retrofitted buildings and to improve the European industrial competitiveness.



[Find out more](#)

[Access the EeB PPP Project review 2021](#)

EU Construction Outlook

The ING global bank conducted an economic and financial analysis of the EU construction sector and found that, despite several challenges, the sector is recovering. Construction economist Maurice van Sante, concludes that construction output has been resilient since the first COVID-19 lockdowns around Europe, with the sector now bouncing back to pre-Covid levels. Although some contractors reported having material and staff shortages, the sector is performing well. Building permits issuance is on the rise (indicating future construction work) and contractor bankruptcies have remained low. Overall, the construction confidence indicator's position in many European countries and EU construction volume is expected to grow in 2022.



[Read the full Article](#)

Upcoming Events

Conference for Renewable Heating and Cooling in Integrated Urban and Industrial Energy Systems



ISEC 2022 is a promoter of innovative ideas on the latest renewable energy systems and resource efficiency as well as a forum for research, industry and energy policy. The ISEC conference will welcome international delegates from across the globe to create a meeting point for the international exchange of ideas. This year's focus is on the UN Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the European Green Deal aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Read the full agenda for a detailed schedule of all conferences and biographies of the keynote speakers. This is a hybrid event, held both in-person and online.

[Find out more](#)

World Sustainable Energy Days 2022

5-8 April 2022 - Wels, Austria and online

The 2022 edition of World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) will focus on the transformational potential of policies and technologies in order to meet climate neutrality goals. This year's theme is "Energy transition - full speed ahead!" WSED will hold at least six conferences, host well over 60 countries, 100 speakers and 600 participants. The full program provides an overview of the event, including timescales, plus key sub-topics for each of the six conferences, and the qualified speakers who will be presenting them. This is a hybrid event, held both in-person and online.

[Find out more](#)

Building Fair Brno 2022

21-23 April 2022 - Brno, Czech Republic



The Building Fair Brno will feature product presentations, lectures, demonstrations, advisory centres, student competitions and presentation of former apprentices' work. The fair aims to present a cross-section view of the entire construction industry, covering the construction of buildings, building crafts and technologies, construction materials and products, and more. The theme of the Building Fair 2022 will be **Inner Environment in Buildings and Thermal Comfort**, specifically focusing on **Green Roofs and Facades, Heating and Cooling, Ventilation and Sun-shading and Lighting and Acoustics**.

[Find out more](#)

International Conference on Smart Cities and Green ICT Systems (SMART GREENS)

27-29 April 2022 - Online streaming



The purpose of the International Conference on Smart Cities and Green ICT Systems (SMART GREENS) is to bring together researchers, designers, developers, and practitioners to discuss topics such as Smart Cities, Green Information and Communication Technologies, Sustainability, Energy-Aware Systems and Technologies, and more. The keynote speakers are researchers from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Germany.

[Find out more](#)

European Construction Sector Observatory

You are subscribed to ECOSO newsletter

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)