April 2025
Project

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

Topic: "Construction Blueprint 2: Strategic Alliance for skills development under the Pact for Skills for the Construction sector" (Construction Blueprint 2)

Brief description and main aims:

Construction Blueprint 2 is a four-year initiative which is built upon the success of the initial Construction Blueprint project (2018–2023). The new project aims to enhance skills in the construction sector, focusing on energy efficiency, circular economy, and digitalisation.

The Construction Blueprint 2 project aims to develop a series of sectoral actions in the construction sector to address current and future knowledge developments across the EU. Three main talent and skills development needs have given rise to this action:

• Urgency to accelerate innovative processes in digitalisation.

• Supporting the transition to a circular and greener economy by upgrading and/or designing training

programmes to address these new emerging green skills.

• Boosting the adoption of new technologies in the construction sector, a significant economic sector in the EU.

The overall objective of Construction Blueprint 2 is to create a new strategic approach and cooperation scheme involving key actors implicated in the construction sector, with the aim of developing concrete solutions for skills development that contribute to the implementation of the Pact for Skills, one of the main initiatives of the European Skills Agenda, calling for sustainable competitiveness, social equity and resilience.

A consortium of 20 organisations from 10 European countries will collaborate to design and deliver tailored training programs for VET and HE, upgrade CVET, and develop a skills strategy for the construction industry. They will also enhance the Construction Skills Observatory, launch a web application for accessible training resources, and identify emerging skills essential for the sector.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The project specifically addresses the European Commission's initiative Pact for Skills; in the framework of the "EU Skills Agenda", which was launched with the aim to support public and private organisations with regards to up- and reskilling the labour force in Europe. The EU sectoral social partners of the construction industry, FIEC and EFBWW, in cooperation with EBC launched the Pact for Skills for the construction sector. This initiative calls for concrete commitments by construction and training/education stakeholders at all levels and aims at mobilising a concerted effort amongst private and public actors for quality investment in vocational education and training, as well as in knowledge, skills and competences to the benefit the European construction sector workforce.

Under the Pact for Skills in Construction, the results of Construction Blueprint 2 will make a great contribution to the work of all signatories of the Pact, which will provide resources and tools on skills in the construction sector, strategies for skills development in the framework of the green and digital transition, skills profiles in need of further training programmes and the planning of their implementation in the medium and long term.

Actions and key dates:

January 2025 – start of the project

11-12 February 2025 – kick-off meeting in Madrid

8-9 October 2025 – second General Partners meeting in Athens

April 2025
Project

Topic: "Follow up of Decentralized Thematic Social Dialogue for the Construction Industry" ("DESOCO 2") – Social Dialogue project

Brief description and main aims:

The European Social partners of the construction industry, FIEC and the EFBWW have established one of the first European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees. Over the years, both organisations have continuously re-affirmed their long-term commitment to develop sustainable industrial relations.

General objectives of the project are to:

- promote the European Social Dialogue at national level, while at the same time encouraging national social partners, especially from the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs), to be more involved in the European Social Dialogue of the construction industry.
- continue reinforcing the capacity of national social partners to engage in social dialogue
- strengthen involvement of social partners in EU policy making;
- discuss the social and economic challenges which will determine the future construction labour market.

Over 2 years FIEC and EFBWW will organise 4 thematic meetings.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

In 2017, EFBWW and FIEC, together with AEIP, agreed on a long-term cooperation agreement. Social partners committed "to intensify their collaboration with a view to further strengthen industrial relation in the construction industry at EU-level". In addition, EFBWW and FIEC committed themselves to strengthen, reinforce and promote industrial relations in the construction industry at all levels as well as better coordinate joint research of the European social dimension of the construction industry.

One specific element of the cooperation agreement is that the partners will make better use of the existing EU budget lines related to "industrial relations and social dialogue", with regards to initiatives targeting Central and East European Countries (CEECs).

Actions and key dates:

June 2023 – start of the project

14-15 November 2023 – first thematic workshop in Warsaw on Reconstruction of Ukraine

24-25 April 2024 – second thematic workshop in Vilnius on digitalisation in construction

14 November 2024 – third thematic workshop in Bucarest on labour and skills shortages in the construction sector

13 March 2025 – fourth thematic workshop in Bratislava on the Third Country Nationals

May 2025 – end of the project

April 2025
Project

Topic: "Continuation of Decentralised Thematic Social Dialogue for the Construction Industry" ("DESOCO 3")

Brief description and main aims:

The DESOCO 3 project continues the efforts initiated under the previous DESOCO projects to strengthen social dialogue in the European construction industry. The project aims to address key labour market challenges and improve industrial relations at both the national and European levels.

The project's main objectives include:

- Improving the capacity of national social partners to engage in social dialogue.
- Strengthening industrial relations within the construction sector across EU Member States.
- Increasing the engagement of social partners in shaping EU policies.
- Addressing major industry challenges such as labour shortages, subcontracting, digitalisation, and the green transition.

The project will be implemented over two years and will include:

- Four thematic workshops and social dialogue meetings in different European countries, focusing on critical industry issues like labour shortages, artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalisation, subcontracting, and asbestos regulations.
- A mapping study on subcontracting in the construction sector to assess legislative frameworks across EU Member States.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

In 2017, EFBWW and FIEC, together with AEIP, agreed on a long-term cooperation agreement. Social partners committed "to intensify their collaboration with a view to further strengthen industrial relation in the construction industry at EU-level". In addition, EFBWW and FIEC committed themselves to strengthen, reinforce and promote industrial relations in the construction industry at all levels as well as better coordinate joint research of the European social dimension of the construction industry.

One specific element of the cooperation agreement is that the partners will make better use of the existing EU budget lines related to "industrial relations and social dialogue", with regards to initiatives targeting Central and East European Countries (CEECs).

Actions and key dates:

March 2025 – start of the project

October 2025 – first thematic workshop in Copenhagen on Asbestos

April 2025
Project

Topic: "Centers of Vocational Excellence for Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Housing" (EXCEL4HOUSING4.0)

Brief description and main aims:

EXCEL4HOUSING4.0 is a project funded by Erasmus+ aimed at building a transnational network of Centres of Vocational Education bringing together VET providers, academic and research entities, innovation and industry clusters as well as public entities coordinating energy efficiency and sustainable programs at national and regional level. This initiative seeks to address emerging needs and the "jobs of the future" for energy efficient and sustainable housing – Housing 4.0. To that end, the project will address:

- Cluster 1 – Teaching and Learning: Design and develop innovative cross-border training and capacity building programmes and exchange practices aimed at fostering the transfer of smart and green skills, as well as circular economy methodologies, principles and tools for the improvement of the environmental sustainability of the housing sector.
- Cluster 2 - Business-education partnerships - Develop VET-academia-business strategic partnerships oriented to co-develop and implement industry-relevant curricula, work-based learning opportunities, and upskilling and re-skilling programmes for VET learners, teachers, SMEs, and workers in the energy efficiency and housing sectors.
- Cluster 3 – Governance and funding: Develop a collaborative and long-term sustainability framework, supported by a sustainable funding model for training and education in Energy Efficiency Finance.

EXCEL4HOUSING4.0 will contribute to the twin digital and green transition in the construction sector, while ensuring the delivery of the Green Deal targets and effective transition pathways for environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable housing.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The construction industry is facing a major skills crisis, with a growing demand for workers trained in energy efficiency, digitalization, and sustainable building practices. By participating in this project, FIEC plays a crucial role in ensuring that workforce development aligns with the sector's evolving needs. The project provides an opportunity to shape training programs that equip workers with the necessary skills to meet new regulatory requirements, such as those outlined in the EPBD. With stricter EU rules on emissions and energy performance, construction companies need a highly skilled workforce to implement sustainable solutions. By actively contributing to this initiative, FIEC helps businesses adapt to these changes while ensuring that training programs remain relevant and accessible.

Beyond addressing skills shortages, FIEC's involvement ensures that learning opportunities translate into real employment prospects and industry growth. Additionally, FIEC's role in the project enables the industry to influence EU policies, ensuring that legislative frameworks and funding mechanisms support long-term workforce sustainability.

Actions and key dates:

February 2025 – start of the project

2-3 June 2025 – kick-off meeting in Brussels

April 2025
Project

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

Topic: "Mobile and Innovative Circularity for Construction Products" ("MOBICCON-PRO") – Horizon Europe project

Brief description and main aims:

The MOBICCON-PRO project will develop and demonstrate integrated innovative circular solutions to recover resources from construction and demolition waste (CDW) and decrease consumption of raw construction materials by applying in-situ selective separation/demolition, novel CDW recycling and production of recycled and innovative construction materials, components and products.

Specific objectives of the project:

- Create a Territorial hub for Circularity.
- Develop and streamline innovative digital technologies to support selective separation and demolition.
- Build and test a CDW Treatment Mobile Plant (MPP).
- Develop, certify, and produce innovative construction materials from recycled/recovered CDW.
- Demonstrate the territorial circular concept for CDW in different locations to prove replicability.
- Communicate, disseminate, and exploit the results of the project during and after its expected duration.

Coordinator of the project - Glavbolgarstroy Holding AD (GBS) in Bulgaria.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The transition towards a circular economy is a global challenge. The EU Green Deal aims to transform industries to reduce waste generation, foster recycling and make circular products the norm in the EU. Among the sectors that are expected to contribute to this circular journey, the construction sector is one of the most promising. The sector has a substantial impact on several economic sectors in the EU – making up to 10.5% of EU-27 global added value – and significantly contributes to employment offering 22 million jobs, driven mainly by SMEs. When looking at its environmental impact however, construction sector consumes significant amounts of resources, accounting for approximately 50% of all extracted materials. At the same time, the sector is responsible for more than 37% of the EU's total waste generation, making it one of the biggest waste streams in Europe.

Given the pressing need of a new modus operandi to increase the availability of reused and recycled construction products across the EU, the idea of MOBICCON-PRO project has come about. Its main objective is to demonstrate and deploy an innovative mobile and territorial solution for construction and demolition waste (CDW) management that increases the uptake of recycled construction products in the Southeast Europe region.

Actions and key dates:

December 2022 – start of the project

17 January 2023 – first General Partners meeting in Sofia

25 May 2023 – second General Partners meeting in Sofia

21-22 November 2023 – third General Partners meeting in Copenhagen

28-29 May 2024 – fourth General Partners meeting in Sofia

19-20 November 2024 – fifth General Partners meeting in Brussels

17 February 2025 – Conference on the interim project results in Brussels

20 May 2025 – sixth General Partners meeting in Sofia and online

April 2025
Project

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

Topic: "Social Identity Cards in Construction" ("SIDE-CIC")

Brief description and main aims:

The construction industry in Europe has evolved dramatically over the past few decades, both in terms of technology, but also the sociology of the people working on and running construction sites. The sector can take advantage of the new technologies to improve transparency on construction sites, especially in the context of the growing fragmentation and increasing mobility of workers in the construction industry. This has led to more complexity of subcontracting chains and demands new ways to identify and verify workers and companies present on construction sites.

Across Europe, numerous sectoral social ID card schemes have been developed at national, regional, and local levels, all with various characteristics and functions. The project will identify good practice, the possibility for interconnection and propose input for a possible framework in the area of sectoral social ID cards.

The objective of this project is to guarantee the enforcement of EU rules, create a more transparent environment for workers, employers, and labour authorities and to foster fairer mobility of labour in the construction sector. The approach that the European social partners propose is:

1. To map the current situation of social identity cards in the EU, particularly as they pertain to the construction sector.
2. To carry out a feasibility study, focusing on the interconnectivity of the existing national schemes and contribute to defining the needs and possible regulatory gaps in the EU framework. The study should address two main aspects: legal and technical framework.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

In the project conclusions on social ID cards in the construction industry carried out by EFBWW and FIEC in 2015, it recommended that "possible EU-initiatives related to social ID card schemes should serve as a complementary tool to the existing national social ID schemes and must demonstrate a clear added value to the national scheme". Similarly, a key question, which was raised during the 2015 project proceedings and which, regrettably, could not be resolved within the scope of the study, relates to the use, storage and processing of personal data. This question should be seen in relation to the various objectives of the social ID card schemes and the possibility to cross-border data.

Considering the latest developments in this field it became clear that the approach taken by the present project should be a different one. Following an in-depth mapping exercise, the main idea of this project – i.e., the feasibility part of the project – is to focus on the interconnectivity of the existing national schemes (that would opt to be involved in this study) and shall also contribute to defining the needs and possible regulatory gaps in the EU framework.

Actions and key dates:

July 2023 – start of the project

4 October 2023 – first Steering Group meeting in Brussels

28 February 2024 – second Steering Group meeting in Rome

23 May 2024 – project workshop in Brussels

24 June 2024 – third Steering Group meeting online

22 November 2024 – fourth Steering Group meeting online

20 March 2025 – fifth Steering Group meeting in Brussels

10 June 2025 - final conference in Brussels