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1. BUILD UP Skills country updates and related news

Study on the monitoring of the learning commitment in the construction sector



DG GROW has recently published a **report** written by the Visionary Analytics consortium on the monitoring of the learning commitment in the construction sector.

The report is a study of the communication campaign targeted at the construction sector in order to attract young talent and improve the image of the sector, launched by the European Commission in the context of Construction 2020. The study provides an insight into construction sector apprenticeships, while mapping and assessing the implementation of the construction pledges submitted under the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.

It also compiles an inventory of novel, specific and/or effective solutions to the key challenges surrounding apprenticeships in the construction sector.

Conclusions from Stakeholder Workshop ‘The BUILD UP Skills initiative – taking stock and looking forward’

Back to back with the European Vocational Skills Week a half-day stakeholder workshop was organised by the EASME and Trinomics in Brussels on 23 November 2017: ‘Taking stock of the European BUILD UP Skills initiative and looking forward’.

From the panel discussion between policymakers (European Commission DGs), industry representatives (EFBWW) and VET practitioners in the public some conclusions were:

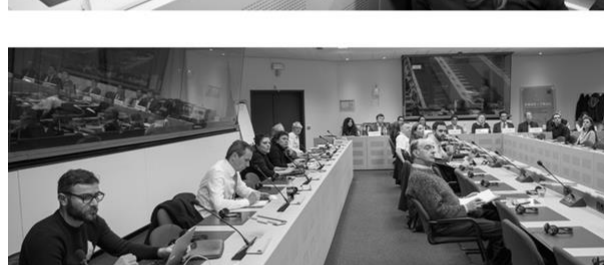
- The EPBD has helped tackle the needs for upskilling;
- BUS Pillar II outputs are being taken up by affiliated organisations and this is also contributing to upskilling;
- Huge differences between MSs remain so there is no one-size-fits all solution for upskilling;
- Mandatory training is implicit in EU regulation (built-in EU regulation through energy efficiency targets and requirements in the in the EPBD for trained workers to conduct certain installation);
- Information is key to convince workers/employers of the importance of skills for energy efficiency.
- Green (public) procurement is needed (achieving nZEB should drive procurement).

The key conclusions from the interactive session on the effective scaling-up of (innovative) training courses read:

- The online component is vital for peer learning, support, transferring knowledge to others;
- Trainers that come to construction sites are a great solution to avoid opportunity cost (lack of time) issues;
- To overcome the focus on costs to instead contributing high quality materials.

The interactive session on mutual recognition focused on the challenge of variations in competence requirements and learning outcomes. To overcome such challenges the solutions proposed by the group included a basket of measures:

- Agreeing on a core set of competences and learning outcomes that can then be easily complemented with local, specific ones;
- Working on building trust across borders is essential;
- Common terminology needs to be agreed upon.



New call for proposals Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliances

Sector Skills Alliances aim at tackling skills gaps with regard to one or more occupational profiles in a specific sector. They do so by identifying existing or emerging sector-specific labour market needs (demand side), and by enhancing the responsiveness of initial and continuing vocational education and training (VET) systems, to the labour market needs (supply side). A new call for proposals (call EAC/A05/2017) is now open for Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices. The deadline for submission is 28 February 2018. All information about the call including eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found on the [EACEA website](#).

Train-to-nZEB at the 22nd International Passive House Conference



Train-to-nZEB will host a session at the 22nd International Passive House Conference that will take place in Munich, Germany on 9-10 March 2018. The aim is to disseminate the Project's concepts and achievements as well as to attract new partners to the Building Knowledge Hubs (BKH) network and to intensify networking activities around the newly established Hubs. The programme for the two-day conference is not available yet – stay tuned to the [Passive House website](#).

EU parliament and MSs continue to debate Energy Performance of Buildings Recast

On the meeting between the European Commission, Parliament and Council on 5 December at issue was the timetable for long term renovation strategies to achieve emissions reduction in the building stock by 2050. The building refurbishment targets, defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) caused disagreements: While the European Parliament insisted on clear milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050, member states were reluctant to agree on exacting commitments. No common ground was found and EU Presidency holder Estonia called off negotiations after a late night session. Whether another negotiation round will take place before Estonian Presidency ends on 31 December is still unsure. Read the full news [here](#).

New BPIE briefing on national renovation strategies



A new briefing from BPIE presents examples from selected EU Member States, in reviewing the measures taken to implement the 2014 version of the renovation strategies and what progress has been made as of September 2017. The analysis found a range of measures which were newly implemented or developed further to stimulate the renovation of the building stock. The examples show that it is possible to introduce strategic policies and supporting measures which are benefitting citizens and the economy alike and that progress in renovating the building stock can be achieved if political will and priority setting are allowing it. The full report can be found [here](#).

2. Upcoming events

Workshop on Novel Energy Efficient Envelopes - H2020 EU Projects, Brussels (Belgium), 23 January 2018

Five Horizon 2020 EU Projects (HOMESKIN, INNOVIP, GELCLAD, WALL-ACE & EENSULATE) organise a workshop on 23 January 2018 (9:00 - 12:30) at the Thon Hotel in Brussels City Centre. The aim of the workshop is to provide an overview of their activities and specific topics discussions: technical performance for certification (e.g. thermal resistance) and go-to-market barriers.

The workshop programme, registration link as well as the descriptions of the projects that will be presented can be found on [this link](#) of the website of the European Construction, built environment and energy efficient building Technology Platform (ECTP).

Updating the European Strategy on Energy Efficiency: Making Better Use of Energy Resources, Brussels (Belgium), 15 February 2018

This event is a symposium for public policy exchange that will take place on 15 February 2018 (10:00 - 16:30) at the Thon Hotel in Brussels City Centre. This symposium will provide an opportunity to engage with the latest developments in the EU legislative framework on energy efficiency. It will also enable attendees to examine the societal factors that drive energy consumption, the latest technological innovations that for efficiency gains and the best available solutions to finance energy efficiency projects. The symposium will also offer delegates a platform to share ideas and best practice from across Europe. The full programme is available [here](#).

2018 BIM Summit, Barcelona (Spain), 8–9 March 2018

Building Information Modelling (BIM) is a hot topic in the construction sector in Europe. The European **BIM Summit** in Barcelona is the place to get an update on the current situation and direction of this technology. The two-day summit starts with a vision of the BIM in Europe and Spain. It also addresses the implications of BIM in the sector – how the technology will affect construction professionals. The summit also includes a BIM fair (open event, with free admission) displaying the latest developments in the market in terms of both products and services. The summit is aimed at construction professionals including structural authorities and construction managers as well as interested local authorities. The [full agenda](#) is already known.

World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) 2018, 28 February–2 March 2018, Wels (Austria)

The **World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED)** are one of Europe's largest annual conferences in the sustainable energy field. The conference covers energy efficiency, renewables, technology and smart buildings. The event will feature policies, technology innovation and market development. It offers a unique combination of conferences and interactive events. The annual conference brings together more than 700 delegates from over 50 countries from business, public sector and the research community. The programme is available on [this link](#) of the event's webpage.

12th International Renewable Energy Storage Conference (IRES 2018), Düsseldorf (Germany), 13–15 March 2018

IRES 2018 is a conference on renewable energy storage and particularly energy storage. The conference will cover the state of the art scientific research on storage technology, legal frameworks, network and market aspects (IRES) on the one hand, and the business and finance aspects for the rollout of these technologies to the global market on the other. The conference is accompanied by the largest B2B exhibition on storage technologies. The conference is organised by the European Association for Renewable Energy EUROSOLAR and the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE).

UK Summit 2018, Dublin (UK), 2 May 2018

The purpose of this **3rd Annual National Construction Summit** is to bring together industry (construction companies, developers, architects, designers etc) as well as (municipal) policy makers in order to stimulate debate, enrich knowledge and connect stakeholder's involved in the finance, design, construction and management of Ireland's buildings, infrastructure and industrial projects. The event will particularly focus on Ireland. The key themes for this summit are: Brexit, Foreign Direct Investment, Jobs, Skills, Training and Education, Infrastructural Investment, Public & Private Housing, Building Materials & Services Innovation, Sustainability.