

### Overview

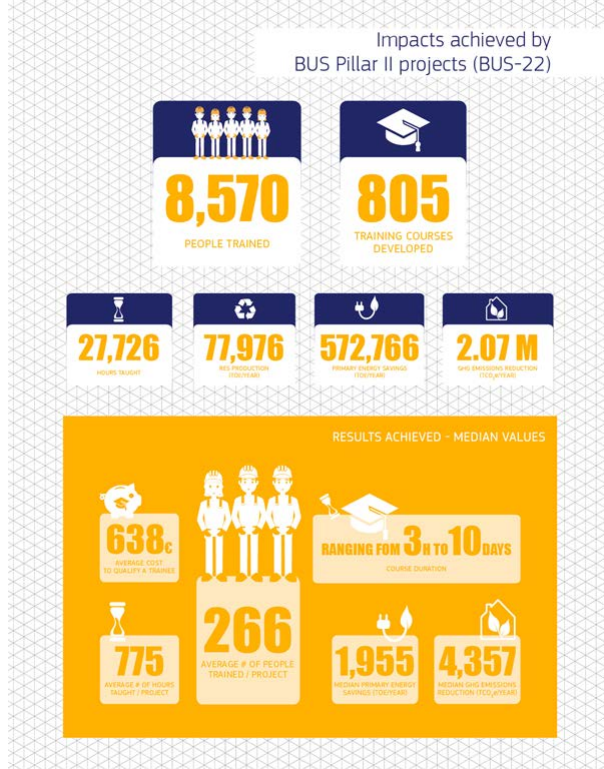
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## 1. BUILD UP Skills country updates and related news

### BUILD UP Skills Pillar II brochure and Final Evaluation report are out!



As part of the contract EASME/H2020/EE/2015/008 to **Support for BUILD UP Skills EU exchanges and analysis on construction skills** for the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), Trinomics, with the support of Visionary Analytics, has assessed **BUILD UP Skills Pillar II**. **The full report** is available on the BUILD UP Skills website. The assessment has been done against six evaluation criteria: Relevance, EU added value, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Coherence and Sustainability.

The conclusion is that BUILD UP Skills has been a **successful, relevant, unique and timely initiative**.

The projects have helped to set the basis for education of construction workers, developed high quality and innovative materials, developed a good network and raised awareness among construction workers and policy makers on the importance of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and cross-craft skills for blue collar workers. Trinomics (the lead contractor supporting the EASME) would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all the project coordinators of the 22 projects for their help – the open discussions and inputs have been invaluable contributions to the report.

Next to this, a [short brochure](#) has been produced providing an overview of the initiative.

### Fresh EU analysis makes case for higher renewables and energy efficiency

The European Commission (DG Energy) has updated current policy scenarios for renewables and energy efficiency, based on revised assumptions of renewable energy technology costs, including wind and solar. The target in the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package tabled in November 2016 was for Europe to source 27% of its energy needs from renewables and cut energy consumption by 2030. "Lower technology costs make the achievement of a 27% renewable energy target by 2030 (coupled with 40% GHG emission reductions and 30% energy efficiency) cheaper by €2.9 billion per year in the period 2021-30 and by €5.9 billion per year for the period 2021-2050," says the [updated analysis](#). This non-official paper does not alter the Commission's official proposal, but will certainly inform upcoming discussions between the European Parliament and Council negotiators.

### Smart finance for smart buildings: investing in energy efficiency in buildings – new financial instrument launched



In February 2018, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved the creation of a brand new financial instrument, the **Smart Finance for Smart Buildings**. The aim is to make investments in energy efficiency projects in residential buildings more attractive to private investors, through the intelligent use of EU grants as a guarantee. This new instrument for energy efficiency projects, alongside the other EU policy initiatives for smart buildings, aims to unlock a total of €10 billion in public and private funds between now and 2020. This could in turn help establish a renovation market for small businesses worth up to €120 billion.

### The Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy)



The **Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy)** is the space where MS, regions and community members receive support for the optimal and effective uptake of Cohesion Funds for sustainable energy. Starting already in May 2015, the project has been centred in providing expertise and methodological support to all the agents engaged in energy and innovation, and in promoting mutual transnational learning activities. One of its more tangible results is the creation of five interregional partnerships, with the participation of more than 60 regions or Member States around topics such as bio-energy, solar energy, renewable marine energy, smart grids and sustainable buildings.

The S3PEnergy collaborates with interested regions and MS to:

- analyse current energy priorities and policies, and
- identify good practices and roadmaps for bottom-up transregional and transnational cooperation. Expressions of

interest for the development of partnerships for interregional cooperation in thematic areas related to Energy can be submitted [here](#)

### Assessment of Art17 Energy Efficiency Directive

The EU Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) sets out the common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the EU towards achieving the 2020 and 2030 targets. In particular, Article 17 aims to tackle the informational barriers to energy efficiency described above. It concerns the dissemination of information and availability of training initiatives related to energy efficiency. An [ongoing study](#) to be delivered by October 2018 is evaluating this article. Specifically, the study is concerned with:

1. assessing the implementation status and the effectiveness of Article 17 in the EU-28 Member States;
2. evaluating the effectiveness of measures to ensure provision of information to the financial institutions and banks; and
3. providing recommendations to the Commission and Member States for further action.

### Construction industry insights in the UK – Take a look at the new Construction Skills Network report

Political and economic uncertainties in the UK construction sector will continue to grow in the period 2018-2022. The latest report of the UK Construction Skills Network (CSN) has been published in February 2018 and explains the forecasts for this sector in the coming years. The report explains that Infrastructure and housing will be the biggest growth-drivers. There is now a national focus on the skills and employment challenges facing the construction sector and the country. Construction output is expected to grow by 1.3% over the next five years, with 158,000 jobs to be created (31,600 new workers per year). In particular infrastructure and homebuilding show the strongest output growth. It is expected that the infrastructure sector to grow, on average, 3.1% Housing output, by 2.8% and 2.2% respectively. In particular Wales, South West, West Midlands and North West will grow strongly, while North East will see decline. You can download the full report on [this link](#) of the **Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) website**



### Vacancy Cedefop Director!

Heads up VET, Apprenticeships, Adult Learning professionals for a new top vacancy: The Cedefop has published a vacancy notice for the post of Cedefop Director. The deadline for applications is 8 May 2018. You can read more about the vacancy, the eligibility and selection criteria and the application procedure on the [Cedefop website](#).

Cedefop is the European Agency that promotes the development of vocational education and training (VET) in the European Union. It provides information, research and analysis on VET, skills and qualifications. It supports evidence-based policy-making in areas such as the implementation of European tools or anticipation of skill needs and improves understanding of qualifications and skills to promote European cooperation, mobility and mutual learning. Cedefop is based in Thessaloniki, Greece.

## 2. Upcoming events

### 4th EU Energy Summit, 12 April 2018, Brussels (Belgium)

The 4th EU Energy Summit, organised by Business Bridge Europe and supported by the European Business Summit (EBS) will take place in Brussels at the Egmont Palace on 12th April 2018. The "Clean Energy for All Europeans" legislative package will be at the forefront of the European inter-institutional discussions during the Summit's debate. Other topics for discussion will be energy efficiency, renewables, the design of the electricity market, security of electricity supply, governance rules for the Energy Union, and actions to accelerate clean energy innovation, to renovate Europe's buildings as well as measures to encourage public and private investment. For the full [programme](#) and [registration](#) you can visit the [Summit's website](#).

### National Construction Summit 2018, 2 May 2018, Dublin (Ireland)

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 stakeholders 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 and Industrial, Public & Private Housing, Building Materials & Services Innovation, Sustainability.

### EU Green Week, 21-25 May 2018, Brussels (Belgium)

This edition, themed "Green Cities for a Greener Future", will explore ways in which the EU is helping cities to become better, healthier places to live and work in. The week will officially open on 21/5 in Utrecht (The Netherlands) and will close on 25/5 in Madrid (Spain). For the high level EU Green Cities Summit that will take place in Brussels on 22-24/5 registration will open on 3rd April. Although energy efficiency in the building sector is not prominent in the agenda this year (unlike in the 2017 edition), Day 3 does address how cities can contribute to achieve EU climate and energy goals, for which energy efficiency in the building sector is essential. For detailed information on the programme stay tuned to the [Green Week website](#).

### European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2018, 4-8 June 2018, Brussels (Belgium)

Every year EASME, on behalf of European Commission's Directorate General for Energy, organises the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW). This year's theme 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' focuses on energy efficiency, Europe's lead in renewables and consumers, and overall on the energy transition. The week includes several elements, from a main policy conference that includes an **award ceremony** for innovative and original projects in this area, to several self/organised, side events across Europe aiming to stimulate sustainable energy. Registration to the conference is not open yet. Stay tuned to the official [EUSEW website](#)

### European Validation Day, 14-15 June 2018, Brussels (Belgium)

The European Validation Festival that the European Commission is organising in Brussels aims to gather up to 250 stakeholders from inside and outside Europe to share practices and exchange ideas and knowledge on validation of informal and non-formal learning. Day 1 of the Festival will feature a marketplace with stands where organisations will have the opportunity to present initiatives and practices on validation of informal and non-formal learning to other participants. For the template to propose a stand at the European Validation Festival, send an email to [European Validation Festival Organising Team](#).