



Newsletter #6, January 2017

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1. BUILD UP Skills country updates and related news

The report of 9th BUILD UP Skills EU Exchange Meeting is online



This report sets out to harvest the results of the 9th BUILD UP Skills EU Exchange Meeting which took place on 6 and 7 December 2016 in Athens, Greece. A total of 60 participants attended the two-day event including 53 BUILD UP Skills project coordinators (representing finalised Pillar I projects as well as ongoing and finalised Pillar II projects) and Horizon 2020 Construction Skills project coordinators, two EASME representatives and five consultants from Trinomics, Visionary Analytics and GOPAcom. The report provides an overview of the presentations at plenary and parallel break-out sessions, and summarises the discussions that took place during the two-day exchange meeting, including the work done within the four

thematic Technical Working Groups.

If you missed some presentations or would like a reminder of what was discussed at the two-day meeting, please visit [this webpage](#) where the presentations have been uploaded.

The NEW BUILD UP Skills website goes live mid-March!

The new BUILD UP Skills website is going live mid-March. From the users' perspective, all the content of the current website [www.buildupskills.eu](#) is being integrated into the general **BUILD UP website**, under a new heading: 'Skills'. Similarly, the new website will have a dedicated place for EU Exchange Meetings, Technical Working Groups and National Pages (including country factsheets summarising the BUILD UP Skills projects and Horizon 2020 Construction Skills projects in each country), in which BUILD UP Skills as well as Horizon 2020 Construction Skills projects in each country are listed. On top of this, the site will feature BUILD UP Skills news / events, stores BUILD UP Skills Newsletters, and shows the link to the Collaboration Platform (BUILD UP Skills Community).

The European Vocational Skills Week 2016, Brussels (Belgium)

This first European Vocational Skills Week was aimed to demonstrate the crucial role of Vocational education and training (VET) in supporting skills, jobs, innovation and competitiveness as well as to improve the attractiveness and image of VET.

During the Week, the Commission intended to raise awareness on the opportunities offered by VET as well as to showcase best cases of VET. The themes covered include: Adult learning and reskilling, youth employment, VET's contribution to competitiveness and jobs, apprenticeships and mobility, businesses and VET and improving quality assurance in VET.

More than 900 events and activities took place across Europe, reaching an estimated 702,250 people. Brussels alone received 1.000 visitors participating in various events and workshops. Several presentations and videos from the various events are available on the following [webpage](#).



The EU Winter Package

The EU's 'Winter Package' contains proposals for new targets for energy efficiency in buildings. The executive has proposed a binding EU-level 2030 target of at least a 30% increase in energy efficiency compared to 1990 levels.

The key proposals of relevance to energy efficiency in buildings are:

- Update to the existing Energy Efficiency Directive by aligning energy efficiency targets with the EU 2030 climate and energy framework;
- Extending beyond 2020 the energy saving obligation requiring energy suppliers and distributors to save 1.5% of energy each year from 2021 to 2030 with a view to attracting private investment and supporting the emergence of new market actors;

To enable tailor-made policies that take account of national specificities, Member States can also meet this requirement through alternative measures having the same effect, such as energy efficiency support schemes; improving metering and billing of energy consumption for heating and cooling consumers.

Next to that, proposed changes to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) include:

- Encouraging the use of ICT and modern technologies,
- Including building automation and charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, to ensure buildings operate efficiently;
- Streamlining or deleting provisions that have not delivered the expected output;
- Supporting building renovation, by strengthening the links between achieving higher renovation rates, funding and energy performance certificates as well as by reinforcing provisions on national long-term building renovation strategies, with a view to decarbonising the building stock by mid-century.

The Commission is also launching a 'Smart finance for smart buildings' initiative to unlock private financing for energy efficiency and renewables in buildings at a greater scale.

The Commission proposes new rules for consumer centered clean energy transition

The Commission is proposing a set of facilitating measures to support the objectives of the Energy Union and the modernisation of the construction sector and its workforce. The measures focus on the digitalisation of buildings' characteristics, tackling skills shortages in the construction sector, including energy efficiency and digital skills, ensuring better coherence of the internal market functioning and supporting new initiatives to improve the environmental performance of buildings in line with the circular economy.

For more information visit [this webpage](#) of the European Commission website.



The European Building Stock Observatory is online with a wide range of data and analysis on the sector

The EU Building Stock Observatory is a major online data portal launched on 30 November 2016. The Observatory provides a comprehensive snapshot of the building stock characteristics in the EU-28 and monitors the implementation of the energy performance related EU Directives in Member States. The Observatory contains a large **database** encompassing the performance of countries across time on 250 indicators (e.g. building stock characteristics, energy consumption, financing, certification, energy poverty), **factsheets** and a **datamapper**.

Irish construction companies are pitching for returning emigrants

Well established firms in Ireland have in December participated in campaigns aimed at attracting emigrants home. This is due to the resurgence that the industry has experienced in the last year and the consequent shortage in skilled workers that the country is facing. The estimated number of workers needed by 2020 in order to meet the demand, is 112,000 and it includes architects, engineers and craftsmen. The campaign is enticing Irish construction workers home through a series of online seminars titled 'Return to Ireland'. This may be a country specific example, but it is probably also a good illustration of the current labour market situation of the construction sector in several EU Member States.

The full news can be found [here](#)

2. Upcoming events

Smart Buildings for a greener Europe: Emerging Policy and Practice, St. Julian's (Malta), 14 February 2017 + Live webstreaming

What are smart buildings? How can they help improve the energy efficiency of Europe's building stock? These questions will be discussed with industry, academia and policy officers from the European Commission at this event, consisting of a public workshop with a panel discussion. The workshop will take place the day before the meeting of the EPBD Concerted Action (closed forum gathering the EU Member States and Norway to discuss implementation of Europe's legislation on energy performance of buildings) and as such, will provide information on the latest research and innovation in smart buildings in the context of European policies, notably the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) which is undergoing a review. The event flyer and link to register for the event are found on the [EPBD-CA webpage](#) as well as on the [BUILD UP webpage](#). The event will also be webstreamed.

Energy for Sustainability 2017 (EfS 2017) - Sustainable Cities: Designing Cities & Communities for the Future, Funchal (Portugal), 8-10 February 2017

The goal of the EfS 2017 Conference is to generate discussion on how to create an energy sustainable future for the people and the planet by promoting the exchange of knowledge, innovative ideas and past experiences between participants from multiple scientific fields. Various topics pertaining to the themes smart cities & communities, buildings and end-uses, policy and assessment, cleaner energy supply will be covered in this conference. Registration for this event will be open in December. In the meantime, more information can be found at the [conference website](#).

10th BUILD UP Skills EU Exchange Meeting, Rotterdam (the Netherlands), 30-31 May 2017

The next (and last) BUILD UP Skills EU exchange meeting will take place on the 30th and 31st of May at the Bilderberg Hotel in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. As usual, this meeting is open for BUILD UP Skills project coordinators and partners involved in the BUILD UP Skills Pillar I, completed and ongoing BUILD UP Skills Pillar II, and ongoing Horizon 2020 Construction Skills projects. Similar to the past two EU Exchange Meetings, the two-day event will include a site visit to a state-of-the-art construction skills and energy efficiency center / project, followed by a dinner for everyone who wants to join.

For it is the last meeting in this series, emphasis is placed on the four Technical Working Groups delivering tangible outputs. If you missed the previous EU exchange meetings or would like a reminder of what was discussed there, please visit the page on the BUILD UP Skills website dedicated to sharing their outputs - programme, list of participants, posters and all the presentations: [www.buildupskills.eu/eu-activities/eu-exchange-meetings](#)

