

## PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 8 February 2022

# Pact for Skills in Construction

## Mobilising quality investments and commitments to improve construction skills

Today, in the context of the EU Industry Days 2022, the EU sectoral social partners of the construction industry, [FIEC](#) and EFBWW, in cooperation with EBC, published the [Pact for Skills in Construction](#), an initiative promoted by the European Commission in the framework of the “EU Skills Agenda”. Calling for concrete commitments by construction and education stakeholders at all levels, this Pact aims at mobilising a concerted effort among private and public partners for quality investment in vocational education and training, as well as in knowledge, skills and competences to the benefit the European construction sector workforce.

The EU construction industry represents 9.5% of EU GDP (€ 1,324 billion) and 6.1% of EU total employment (12.7 million workers active in about 3.2 million enterprises). Its importance for the European economy and society is well known, even more so given its key role in making the environmental, digital and health ambitions of the *European Green Deal* a reality.

Yet, construction companies are confronted with difficulties in finding workers with the right skills and the sector remains less attractive than others to young people and women. The construction industry has however been constantly evolving and adapting for decades, making room for new green, digital, health and safety skills, which open to a whole new range of career and entrepreneurial opportunities.

To better promote current and upcoming career options in construction, FIEC, EBC and EFBWW have jointly developed this [Pact for Skills in Construction](#), which identifies **5 key principles** to improve the quality and quantity of skills in construction:

- Building strong partnerships, including with VET institutions;
- Monitoring occupational supply/demand and anticipating knowledge, skills and competences needs;
- Working against discrimination;
- Attracting more young people and women in the sector;
- Promoting a culture of lifelong learning for all, supported by adapted incentives.

Based on a flexible system of involvement, the initiative proposes that all construction and educational stakeholders share a concrete commitment to make the key principles of the Pact a reality. Considering their structure and scope, whether at European, national, regional and/or local level, the signatories will choose the most appropriate actions to match their own needs in terms of upskilling and reskilling. FIEC, EBC and EFBWW will monitor their activity on a yearly basis. Although the situation varies significantly from one country to the other, the ambition is to upskill and reskill overall at least 25% of the workforce of the construction industry in the next 5 years: the aim is to reach the target of 3 million workers.


Sign the joint Pact on the [digital endorsement form](#)

Nicolas **Schmit**, **European Commissioner** for Jobs and Social Rights stated: *“The construction ecosystem relies on well-trained people. New technologies and climate goals mean that workers have to learn and acquire new skills or update them. I commend the important skills partnership launched today by the construction ecosystem, which will see three million workers benefit.”*

Thomas **Bauer**, **FIEC President** said: *“In the framework of the ongoing green and digital transition, our workers’ skills needs are evolving very rapidly. With this Pact, we therefore call all relevant stakeholders, both public and private, and at all levels, to join us and commit to putting in place the right conditions which will enable the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce. This is a prerequisite to achieve the goals of the EU Green Deal.”*

Rinaldo **Incerpi**, **EBC President** added: *“Environmental and social sustainability, as well as digital construction, are major challenges for the construction sector. To make this a reality, our entrepreneurs, workers and trainers, but also the talents to be convinced to join our sector, need training and education in line with current societal challenges and market demands. This Pact is of crucial importance as it marks a new round of concrete commitments to improve construction skills in Europe.”*

Johan **Lindholm**, **EFBWW President** concluded: *“The construction sector is facing a labour shortage for many years. There is an urgent need to attract more young workers, more female workers, and skilled workers to the sector. The Pact for Skills is an opportunity to achieve it. Social dialogue has an important role to play: trade unions, employers and Governments need to work together to provide more and updated training to achieve better working conditions, and decent and direct jobs.”*

 <p><b>PACT FOR SKILLS</b></p> <p>A Pact for Skills in Construction by the EU sectoral Social Partners, EFBWW and FIEC in cooperation with EBC</p>	<p>To read the full text of the <i>Pact for Skills in Construction</i>, please click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
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