

Topic: EU Skills Agenda – Pact for Skills in Construction

Brief description and main aims:

On 1st July 2020, the European Commission presented an update EU Skills Agenda, building on the 2016 Agenda – which, in the meantime, has been implemented.

This agenda sets new ambitious quantitative objectives for upskilling (improving existing skills) and reskilling (training in new skills) people over the next 5 years.

The presented agenda focuses in particular on 3 principles:

- Upskilling and reskilling should support the green and digital transition and EU's recovery from the COVID crisis in more general terms;
- People should develop “skills for jobs”, that is, in the most possible pragmatic approach, including via vocational education and training;
- Adults should have access to life-long learning.

First action amongst the 12 is the set up of several sectoral “**Pact for Skills**”, including in construction. It is aimed at bringing together stakeholders, including social partners, which share the objective of up- and reskilling the workforce to enable the green and digital transition. These stakeholders are expected to sign a Charter, which will define the key principles that are essential to fulfil this objective, within their organisations but also across their value chain.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The problems of lack of skilled workforce, skills gaps and skills mismatches in the construction sector are crucial for FIEC.

This is even more the case now as the availability of skilled construction workers will be key to the success of the European Green Deal's Renovation Wave, as well as to the overall digital transition of the construction industry.

FIEC is already involved in these topics in many ways, and namely through our social dialogue with EFBWW.

Moreover, FIEC is partner in the “Construction Blueprint for a Sectorial Skills Strategy” (Erasmus+ project) which will last until end 2022 and define the new skills needs in the fields of energy efficiency, circular economy and digitalisation.

Together with the EFBWW, FIEC is working on preparing the basis for a Pact for Skills in construction, based on our joint experience in this field and targeting a few possible qualitative objectives to which we can further commit.

Actions and key dates:

01/07/2020 – European Commission presents the update EU Skills Agenda

10/11/2020 – Official launch of the [Pact for Skills](#) (with several sectors involved)

27/11/2020 – FIEC (VP Schons and VP Petrucco) participates in meeting with Commissioners Breton (Internal Market and Industry) and Schmit (Employment and Social affairs) on a Pact for Skills in construction

08/02/2021 and 04/06/2021 – FIEC and EFBWW work on the preparation of a “Construction Charter” at their social dialogue meetings

November 2021 – Expected official approval of the “Construction Charter” by FIEC and EFBWW (in cooperation with EBC)