The future of skills in Europe
The time to act is NOW

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H.1 Construction

European construction ecosystem

GLOBAL TRENDS

- Creates our built environment
- One of the largest parts of the EU economy
- Raw materials and water consumption
- Waste production
- GHG emissions



European Construction Obsevatory

- **2025 - Analytical Report on Skills in Construction**
- **Country fact sheets** (November 2026)

- Data collecting and analyses —›picture of the past and trends
- No black swan events predictions (especially negative)



- ECO webinar on 3 December 2026
- HLCF webinar on 15 December 2026

European Commission

European construction ecosystem

- Fragmented – 99.9% SMEs, 90% microcompanies
- Productivity is declining, while the EU economy recorded modest gains
- Least digitalised - only 55% of firms using advanced digital technologies compared to a 76% average in the other ecosystems
- Rate of job vacancies is higher (almost twice) in construction compared to other sectors (attractiveness, OHS)
- The workforce is ageing, in line with European trends
- Women's participation in the sector has increased from 9.2% (2015) to 11% (2024) of the construction workforce

European Commission

European construction ecosystem

- 2024-2030 – 6-8 million job leavers
- Construction activity is closely tied to the economic cycle —› investments —› labour force needed
- Construction is widely considered a primary economic driver —› it pulls multiple other sectors along with it
- Ageing EU population —›human capital will be a precious asset —›fair share of (young) talent

European Commission

European construction ecosystem

- Resilience
- No time to lose
- Cooperation/partnerships
- A new generation of digitally aware multi-skilled workers

Europe’s competitiveness, resilience and social cohesion depend on its skilled workforce.

European Commission

Thank you!

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