



European Builders Confederation

Putting SMEs and Youth at the Frontline of the Digitalisation Curve

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European Builders Confederation

Construction SMEs in Europe



- Established in 1990
- Main fields: social affairs, standardisation, energy efficiency, internal market
- Partner and member of Small Business Standards and UEAPME

Exclusively representing micro companies & SMEs

All the different trades of the construction sector

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The economic importance of Construction SMEs in Europe



9%
of the GDP of the
European Union



3 MILLION
enterprises in the
sector



18 MILLION
workers in the
sector

YOUNG PEOPLE & WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

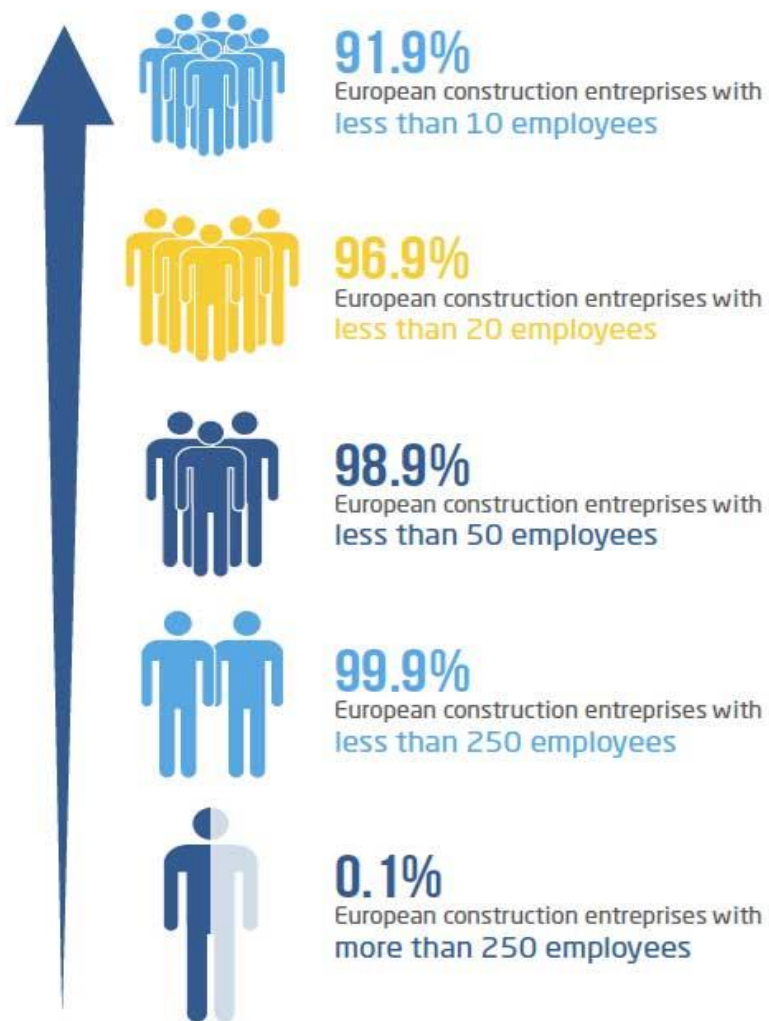
90% MALE

10% FEMALE

**8% YOUNGER
THAN 25**

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La structure du secteur de la construction



What is Construction 4.0?

- ❑ **The Internet of Things (IoT)**
- ❑ **Building Information Modelling (BIM)**
- ❑ **Off-site construction tools:** 3D printing; preassembled modules
- ❑ **New materials:** nanomaterials; robotisation
- ❑ **Compatibility between different tools:** clouds; handheld devices interoperability; simple and intuitive design
- ❑ **Specific issues:** training schemes; mobile nature; geographical dispersion; subcontracting liability; share of responsibility

While the whole sector feels heavily these changes, construction SMEs feel these challenges on an even bigger scale!

Benefits of digitalisation

- New and **modernized image of the construction sector**, which may be pivotal to change the negative image of the industry
- Improvement of **cost-efficiency** and ensuring the global **sustainability of the sector**
- Major improvements to **project management and maintenance** during the whole lifecycle of a building
- **Facilitate higher energy efficiency** and lower life-cycle costs of buildings
- Enhanced **communication and trust** along the value chain → transparency

Alleviate **heavy construction tasks** and possibility to **upskill and attract young construction workers**

Some warnings on digitalisation

However, digitalisation is an enabler and not a goal in itself!

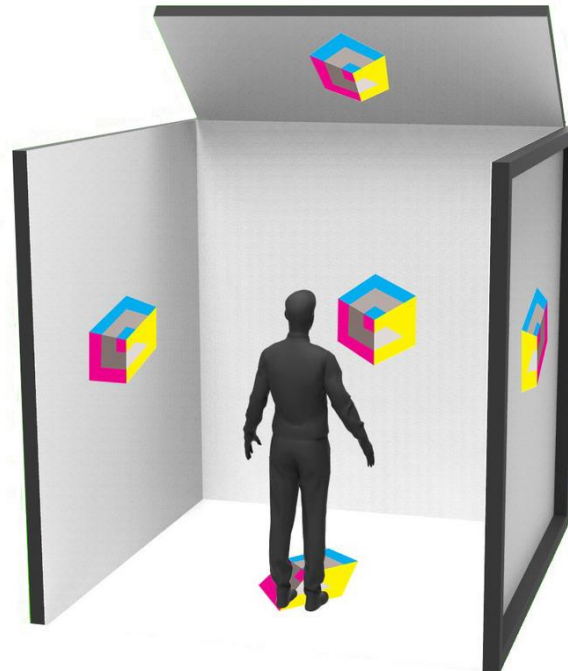
Digital solutions make sense when they are affordable, easy to access and constitute a real added value to our construction SMEs and craftsmen.

Moreover, it has to be **massive**: how does a TV work?

Some best practices

SAS virtual concept: The Cube

- Developed by a plumber!
- A virtual reality system immersed in 4D = specific 3D glasses and computer equipment dedicated to this space ("Cube").
- A virtual space that allows to visualize the project and move around, climb the stairs, open the doors, change the paintings, the tiles, the kitchen, the bathroom, etc.



Some best practices

SAS virtual concept: The Cube

- Aim: use BIM development and 3d potential to allow craftsmen to better understand their renovation projects and present them to their clients
- Prices:
 - Conversion of a 3d plan (1 room) : 100 €
 - Conversion of an entire project (full house): 520 €



Some best practices

Lahyer SAS Mini-crane

- Objective: to facilitate the working conditions of building craftsmen on construction sites
- Principle: a mini crane easily transportable that can lift loads up to 300 kg



What do we need more?



SMEs empowerment

- **Cooperation of the whole construction chain:** win-win situation for all!
- Ensuring a **progressive roadmap and adapted transition** phase from traditional methods to digital ones for SMEs
- Digitalisation of the construction sector a **top political priority for the European Union:**
 - Appropriate regulatory framework to ensure a **level playing field for SMEs** (antitrust, data quality and privacy, etc.)
 - Appropriate financial framework in **the new MFF to support SMEs access to finance** in the fields of R&D, skills and IT infrastructure



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Thank you for your attention

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