

#EUCircularTalks

Construction and Infrastructure value chains and market



Competitiveness of secondary materials: design phase and end of life as parts of the same problem/solution

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- ➔ Established in 1990
- ➔ Secretariat based in Brussels
- ➔ EBC defends and promotes the interests of construction SMEs and craftsmen in Europe

19 NATIONAL
EMPLOYERS'
ORGANISATIONS IN
16 COUNTRIES



Design (challenges)

- Most of existing buildings have not been designed following circular economy principles
 - No information on the materials used
 - Building materials are entangled or glued to each other
- Basic principle for circular renovation: client's demand
 - Almost no obligation to use sustainable materials
 - Increasing price of construction materials
 - Market of secondary raw materials is more expensive
 - National and local subsidies for renovation do not grasp market reality

Design (solutions)

- Improve data on existing buildings (e.g. Digital logbooks)
- Create levers to offer more recycled products in the construction industry
- Consider financial support in the frame of subsidies or tax credits to support the purchase and use of recycled materials and sustainable products
- Align renovation subsidies with market reality

Execution (challenges)

- Reluctance to reuse recycled materials or reused products because of uncertainty about their consistency and safety
- Knowledge of their residual performance is very costly in terms of evaluation
- Green and digital skills in the sector still be fully developed

Execution (solutions)

- Develop a clear framework that addresses issues related to the residual performance of materials/products to support their reuse.
- Assess the role standardisation can play for certain recycled/reused construction materials and products in order to increase their demand.
- Establish rules on the reuse of materials and products in terms of liability and insurability
- Provide adequate EU funding for awareness-raising/training programmes in the building sector on deconstruction works and waste prevention activities at all levels (initial training, master's degree, continuing training, etc.) and in particular for on-site staff and supervisors

End-of-life (challenges)

- Without sorting, no recycling or recovery is possible
- SMEs usually work in a small radius around their undertaking, and do not always find collection or treatment facilities close to the construction site
- Recycling facilities are rare and widely scattered throughout the countries

End-of-life (solutions)

- Ensure that construction enterprises are able to benefit from an appropriate number of waste facilities located close to construction sites or their businesses (maximum 20 km or 30 minutes transport time). The facilities may be waste collection centres or grouping/storage platforms.
- Remove the waste status from all materials and equipment that can be reused
- Financially support enterprises that reduce the general amount of packaging on their materials and equipment and are active on circular sorting.