

# Position Paper

## Enhancing Green Growth in the Construction Industry in EU Countries

*Addressed to Authorities Regulating Construction Activities in EU Countries*

### **Introduction:**

The construction industry is a cornerstone of economic growth across EU countries. However, it is also one of the largest consumers of resources and energy, and a major contributor to environmental degradation and climate change. The GRINSCO project has identified best practices for promoting sustainability in the construction industry. In particular, a curriculum has been developed consisting of four comprehensive learning units focused on green insulation materials, their application, maintenance, while also exploring sustainability considerations, which should be included in industry standards and training programs.

### **Objective:**

This position paper aims to encourage authorities regulating construction activities to prioritise policy initiatives that promote sustainability and green growth within the construction industry in EU countries, by highlighting the importance of integrating best practices, particularly those defined in the GRINSCO project, into policies and regulatory frameworks, at both national and regional levels.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- ***Strengthening Green Public Procurement (GPP):***

Green Public Procurement is a powerful tool for driving sustainability in construction projects. Authorities should strengthen GPP policies to prioritise environmentally friendly materials, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable construction practices. This can significantly reduce the environmental impact of public construction projects and stimulate demand for green products and services.

- ***Supporting Skills Development and Training:***

The construction industry requires a skilled workforce capable of implementing sustainable construction practices. Authorities should support initiatives for skills development and training programs that focus on sustainable building techniques, renewable energy integration, and green materials. The GRINSCO project's learning units—covering green insulation materials, their application, maintenance, and sustainability objectives—should be incorporated into training curricula to equip the workforce with the necessary knowledge and skills to support the transition towards a more sustainable construction sector.

- ***Promoting Innovation and Research:***

Innovation plays a crucial role in advancing sustainability in the construction industry. Authorities should support research and development efforts aimed at developing innovative solutions, such as green building materials, energy-efficient design technologies and circular construction practices. Collaboration between government institutions, industry stakeholders, and research institutions can accelerate the adoption of sustainable innovations across the sector.

### Implementation Strategies:

- ***Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:***

Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for the successful implementation of green initiatives in the construction industry. Authorities should foster partnerships between government institutions, industry associations, academic institutions, and other sector organizations to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and coordinate efforts towards common sustainability goals.

- ***Policy Dialogues and Consultations:***

Regular policy dialogues and consultations with stakeholders are essential for identifying challenges, discussing solutions, and formulating effective policies. Authorities should organise workshops, seminars, and roundtable discussions to engage stakeholders in the policy-making process and ensure that diverse perspectives are considered. Authorities should collaborate at the regional level to align policies, standards, and regulations related to green construction.

- ***Capacity Building and Awareness Campaigns:***

Capacity building programmes and awareness-raising campaigns are essential for promoting the adoption of sustainable construction practices among industry stakeholders. Authorities should invest in educational initiatives, training programs, and public outreach campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of green construction and provide guidance on implementing sustainable building practices.

### New Directive Compliance:

The recent EU Directive 2024/1275 (EU) on the energy performance of buildings mandates significant improvements in the energy efficiency of buildings, requiring the calculation of the carbon footprint of buildings in Article 7 and urging the adoption of green building materials and practices. Compliance with this directive requires the integration of the GRINSCO project's best practices and learning units into national and regional policies to ensure that the construction industry is equipped to meet these new standards.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, the construction industry plays a significant role in the economy of EU countries, but its environmental impact cannot be overlooked. By prioritising initiatives to promote green materials and sustainability within the construction sector, authorities can achieve multiple benefits, including environmental protection, economic development, and social progress. The integration of best practices identified through initiatives, such as the GRINSCO project, and the compliance with the EU Directive 2024-1275 are crucial for driving positive change and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

### Contact Information:

For further information or inquiries, please contact.....

Sincerely,

GRINSCO project team.