


Quality in Education (CALE) and the European Market Environment in the Construction Sector (EMEcs) projects

Romania

	<p>Summary</p> <p>The <i>CALE</i> research project (2008-2011), co-financed by the European Social Funds (ESF), analysed Romanian legislation, European directives, construction sector development, and workforce qualifications. It was affiliated with international bodies for best practice exchange, with co-financing from the European Social Fund.</p> <p>The European Market Environment in the Construction Sector (EMEcs) research project (2021-2022), co-funded by the European Commission as part of the EASI programme, focused on COVID-19's impact on construction worker mobility, offering policy recommendations for national and European levels to address undeclared work challenges during pandemics.</p>
	<p>Title of the practice in original language</p> <p><i>Calitate în educație, CALE</i> <i>Mediul de piață european în sectorul construcțiilor, EMEcs</i></p>
<p>Name(s) of authorities/bodies/organisations involved</p>	<p>CALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vocational House of Builders (<i>Casa de Meserii a Constructorilor</i>) (Partnership Leader); ▶ TILS Romania (Partner); ▶ Camporlechio Educational (Partner); ▶ Social House of Builders (<i>Casa Socială a Constructorilor</i>) (Partner); ▶ Formedil (Partner). <p>EMEcs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ CNCE (<i>Commissione Nazionale paritetica per le Casse Edili</i>) (Partnership Leader);



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ European Association of Paritarian Institutions of Social Protection (AEIP) (Partner); ▶ FGB (<i>Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini srl SB</i>) (Partner); ▶ Labour Foundation for Construction of the Asturias Principate (<i>FLS Asturias</i>) (Partner); ▶ University Institute of Lisbon (<i>ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa</i>) (Partner); ▶ Trade Union Budowlani (<i>ZZ Budowlani</i>) (Partner); ▶ SOKA-BAU (Partner); ▶ Social House of Builders (<i>Casa Socială a Constructorilor</i>) (Associate Partner).
Sectors	Construction and woodworking
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Government and industry bodies (directly targeted) ▶ Employees and employers in the construction sector (indirectly targeted)
Purpose of measure	Prevention



Aims and objectives

The CALE and the EMEcs research projects were undertaken to examine and potentially influence relevant legislation and industry practices in the construction sector in Romania.

Background context

- ▶ The CALE research project (2008-11) was executed on a national scale within the construction sector, aiming to influence legislation, industry practices, and workforce competencies, contributing to Romania's alignment with European standards, analysing workforce qualifications, and exploring sectoral development. A suite of reports on these topics was subsequently published in 2009;
- ▶ On the other hand, the EMEcs research project (2021-22) responded to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the international construction sector, focusing on mobility and posted workers in EU member states. Launched in September 2021, the project aimed to understand pandemic challenges, evaluate responses, explore digital tools for monitoring worker rights, and formulate EU policy recommendations.



Key objectives of the measure

General Objective:

- ▶ To develop and improve the construction sector in Romania by addressing legislative gaps, promoting best practices, and mitigating the impact of external factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specific Objectives:


- ▶ To analyse the development directions of the construction sector in Romania, identifying areas for improvement and growth;
- ▶ To evaluate the qualifications of the workforce in construction companies, identifying skills gaps and training needs;
- ▶ To facilitate affiliation with international bodies to promote the exchange of best practices in the construction industry;
- ▶ To understand the specific challenges faced by construction workers and employers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on mobility and posting issues;
- ▶ To explore and recommend digital tools for monitoring worker rights, considering the evolving landscape of the construction sector;
- ▶ To formulate and provide EU policy recommendations for future pandemics based on the findings and experiences of the project.

Main activities

The *CALE* project carried out the following activities:

- ▶ Conducted a thorough examination of Romanian professional training legislation and European directives relevant to the construction sector, identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement;
- ▶ Evaluated the development directions of the construction sector in Romania, especially for sectoral committees, providing insights into areas for growth and enhancement;
- ▶ Assessed the qualifications of the construction sector workforce, identifying skills gaps and training needs to improve overall industry competence;
- ▶ Established affiliations with international bodies to exchange best practices, facilitating the adoption of successful strategies from other regions;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Secured co-financing from the European Social Fund through the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013 (INVEST IN PEOPLE!), ensuring financial support for project initiatives. <p>The EMEcs project carried out the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Investigated the specific challenges faced by construction workers and employers during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on mobility and posting issues; ▶ Examined and documented responses at national and European levels to address challenges identified in the initial phase, aiming to understand effective strategies; ▶ Explored and recommended digital tools for monitoring worker rights, considering the dynamic nature of the construction sector; ▶ Developed EU policy recommendations for future pandemics based on the project's findings, contributing to the resilience of the construction industry; ▶ Produced and disseminated various project outcomes, including reports, handbooks, discussion papers, country reports, final reports, and an EU Toolkit.
<p>Funding/organisational resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>CALE</i>: Co-financed from the European Social Fund through the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013 INVEST IN PEOPLE! ▶ EMEcs: Project co-funded by the European Commission as part of the EASI programme – Progress Axis 2014/2020, project no. VS/2020/0497.

	<p>Outcomes</p> <p><i>CALE</i> contributed to enhancing the Romanian construction sector by conducting a comprehensive analysis of legislation, sector development, and workforce qualifications while establishing international affiliations and securing co-financing.</p> <p>EMECs focused on mitigating COVID-19's impact on construction workers, produced outputs such as reports, handbooks, and an EU Toolkit, addressing challenges at national levels and formulating policy recommendations.</p>
<p>Achievement of objectives</p>	<p>The <i>CALE</i> project outcomes include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Report: Comparative analysis of Romanian and EU legislation on the construction sector;ⁱ ▶ Report: Analysis of the development directions of the Romanian construction sector;ⁱⁱ ▶ Report: Analysis of the dynamics of the Romanian construction companies;ⁱⁱⁱ ▶ Occupational standards for construction: development validation and implementation in the professional training system in Romania.^{iv} <p>The EMECs project outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Report: Compares and complements country reports on the pandemic's impact on construction sector posting, highlighting challenges faced by workers and employers;^v ▶ Handbook: Provides information on initiatives supporting mobility and posted workers during the pandemic, focusing on health, safety, social protection, and vocational training;^{vi} ▶ Discussion paper: Explores digital tools and findings from online job advertisements analysis to discuss how digitalisation can monitor and enforce posted workers' rights;^{vii} ▶ Country reports: Individual reports for Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Spain detail challenges at the national level for construction sector workers;^{viii, ix, x, xi, xii, xiii} ▶ Final report: Summarises project inputs and findings, offering key results and recommendations;^{xiv} ▶ EU toolkit: Provides structured policy recommendations for future emergencies, supporting posted workers, and monitoring working and living conditions.^{xv}
<p>Lessons learnt and success factors</p>	<p>Lessons learned include the importance of comparative analysis and collaboration with international bodies, while success factors included understanding pandemic challenges, evaluating responses, exploring digital tools, and securing European Commission co-funding, collectively providing valuable insights and recommendations for the construction industry's resilience and future emergencies.</p>
<p>Transferability</p>	<p>The practices' transferrable aspects include the use of comparative analysis, international affiliations, and securing co-financing, applicable across diverse sectors or Member States. Successful</p>

adoption requires a commitment to legislative scrutiny, industry collaboration, and access to funding mechanisms, ensuring adaptability to distinct contexts for effective implementation.

Further information

Contact

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<https://forumulconstructorilor.ro/en/>

Useful sources and resources

EMECs Project website

<https://emecs-project.eu/>

ⁱCALE - "Calitate în educație" (2009), Raport privind analiza comparativă asupra legislației. Available at: https://www.cmc.org.ro/documente/rapoarte_cale_activit_3/Proiect_CALE_sub-activ_3.1_RAPORT%20FINAL.pdf

ⁱⁱCALE - "Calitate în educație" (2009), Raport privind analiza direcțiilor de dezvoltare ale sectorului de construcții. Available at: https://www.cmc.org.ro/documente/rapoarte_cale_activit_3/Proiect_CALE_sub-activ_3.2_RAPORT%20FINAL.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱCALE - "Calitate în educație" (2009), Raport privind analiza direcțiilor de dezvoltare ale sectorului de construcții. Available at: https://www.cmc.org.ro/documente/rapoarte_cale_activit_3/Proiect_CALE_sub-activ_3.3_RAPORT%20FINAL.pdf

^{iv}CALE - "Calitate în educație" (2009), Analysis of the dynamics of the Romanian construction companies. Available at: https://www.cmc.org.ro/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=223

^vEMECs EU Report (2022). Available at: <https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EMECs-EU-Report.pdf>

^{vi}Protecting posted workers in the construction sector during COVID-19: limits and promising practices EMECs EU Handbook (2022). Available at: <https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EU-Handbook.pdf>

^{vii}New tools for monitoring and enforcing working conditions EMECs Discussion paper (2022). Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Discussion_Paper.pdf

^{viii}EMECs Country report Germany (2021). Available at: <https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/EMECs-Germany.pdf>

^{ix}EMECs Country report Italy (2022). Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EMECs_Italy.pdf

^xEMECs Country report Poland (2022). Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EMECs_Poland.pdf



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- ^{xi} *EMECs Country report Portugal (2022). Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/EMECs_Portugal.pdf*
- ^{xii} *EMECs Country report Romania (2022). Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/EMECs_-Romania.pdf*
- ^{xiii} *EMECs Country report Spain (2022), Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EMECs_Spain.pdf*
- ^{xiv} *EMECs Final report (2022). Available at: <https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/EMECs-Final-Report-EN.pdf>*
- ^{xv} *EMECs EU Toolkit (2022). Available at: https://emecs-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/EU_Toolkit_EN.pdf*