



Construction sector

- The Concrete Initiative published [a study](#) entitled *[“Structural Thermal Energy Storage in Heavy Weight Buildings - Analysis and Recommendations to Provide Flexibility to The Electricity Grid”](#)*.
- On 11 October, at the Conference “Smart Cities - Cities of the Future” (Zagreb), Fire Safe Europe [launched the key message](#) “There are no smart cities without fire safe buildings”.
- Eurostat published 2016 edition of the statistical book entitled *“[Urban Europe](#)”*. The study aims at drawing attention to the important issues raised by the [Habitat III conference](#), as well as providing an opportunity to present a wide range of EU statistics on urban territories.
- The kick off meeting of the VEEP Project took place on 19-20 October in Brussels. The project deals with the issue of *“Cost-Effective Recycling of CDW in High Added Value Energy Efficient Prefabricated Concrete Components for Massive Retrofitting of our Built Environment”*. The project is expected to run until September 2020.
- On 19 October 2016, SBS (the European association representing SMEs in the standard making process at European and international levels) organised its 2016 [EU Conference on “Smart standardisation for SMEs”](#). The conference touched upon issues such as the role of standards in boosting innovation and competitiveness of SMEs and their internationalisation, as well as an assessment of the standards regulation and the voluntary nature of standards.
- On 13 October, the 6th edition of [Renovate Europe Day](#) took place in Brussels. The event focused on “how achieving an NZEB building stock by 2050 can boost EU jobs, growth and SMEs and increase benefits to EU citizens and businesses”.
- EUPAVE (the European Concrete Paving Association) today released a joint publication with EAPA (the European Asphalt Pavement Association) and FEHRL (the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories) released a [joint publication on CO2 savings by maintaining and upgrading roads](#).
[Press Release](#)



Live from the European Union

European Week of Regions and Cities

The European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) was held 10-13 October 2016. It is an annual Brussels-based four-day event during which officials from regions and cities' administrations, as well as experts and academics, can exchange good practices and know-how in the field of regional and urban development. The European Week of Regions and Cities is the biggest European public event of its kind.

As part of the EWRC, to get local people more involved, 187 regions and cities are hosting at least one local event titled 'Europe in my region/city' during this week.

The State of European Cities Report 2016 - a short summary of it appeared in the previous edition of BIBM Newsletter- was published and now available for download [here](#).

The 1 day of the EWRC started with a closer look at challenges and opportunities to foster growth in regions and cities, how to create more jobs and more business-friendly environment.

Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu opened the day



Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy and Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions, 10 October 2016, Belgium - Brussels - © European Union / Anthony Dehez



On day 2, regional experts, policymakers and stakeholders discussed pressing issues such as circular economy (mostly concerning food waste) and energy poverty.

The workshop “Green solutions for energy poverty” discussed measures such as energy efficiency improvements, energy saving, sustainable energy systems, producing renewable energy locally and optimising transport needs. These measures were identified in order to achieve short, medium and long-term objectives. Best practices and initiatives were presented to help residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Energy-efficient homes are also expected to be more resilient to future energy prices.

Day 3 focused on achieving better Cohesion Policy results and several challenges young people in Europe face, especially those in rural areas, and sustainable growth strategies for rural and urban areas. Issues ranging from governments’ digital transformation, peri-urban areas, open data and the Urban Agenda were discussed and debated.

The final day of the EWRC focused on reaching conclusions on a number of key issues such as on waste energy recovery, how to better manage EU Regional Funds and smart specialisation.

[European Week of Regions and Cities - Programme](#)



National Award Winner Project

Finnish Architectural Award Concrete Facade 2015 to *Kangasala House*

The architectural award Concrete Facade 2015 has been given to Architects Heikkinen - Komonen Oy for their project Kangasala House.

This building combines high quality of architectural design with an innovative façade solution. The building complex has high architectural standard and the scale and details of the facades integrate the new building into the cultural landscape of a Finnish parish centre.



Kangasala House is an excellent example of using concrete, with sculptured facades and a colour scheme of multiple nuances emphasising the endless possibilities offered by this building material.



The controlled scale of a relief-like grid extending over the facade surface gives the building sensitivity and character. The joints of the precast grid units are natural part of the grid without standing out from the rest of the joints.

The rust-coloured patinated facades together with the innovative architecture, connect the building to the colour shades of the old stone church and the hillside landscape, as well as to the artworks of Kimmo Pyykkö.

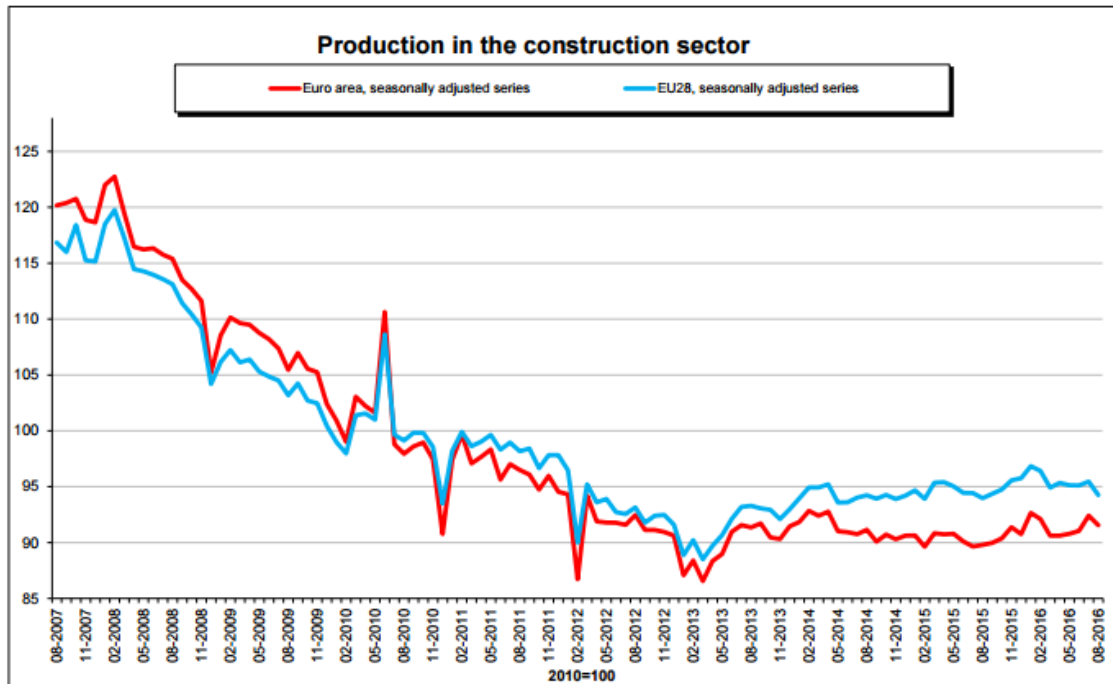


The architects came up with the idea to dye the grey ordinary concrete surface to a brown shade that shines in sunlight to emphasise the dignity of the public building. At the same time; it was also a cost-effective way to implement an expressive whole within the tight budgetary framework.

The grey precast sandwich panels of the Kangasala House were patinated using the Umbra patination method developed by Betonipallas Oy Perti Kukkonen. The treatment is executed over large surfaces crossing panel joints, and if necessary, it will also adjust any differences in the colour of the panels.

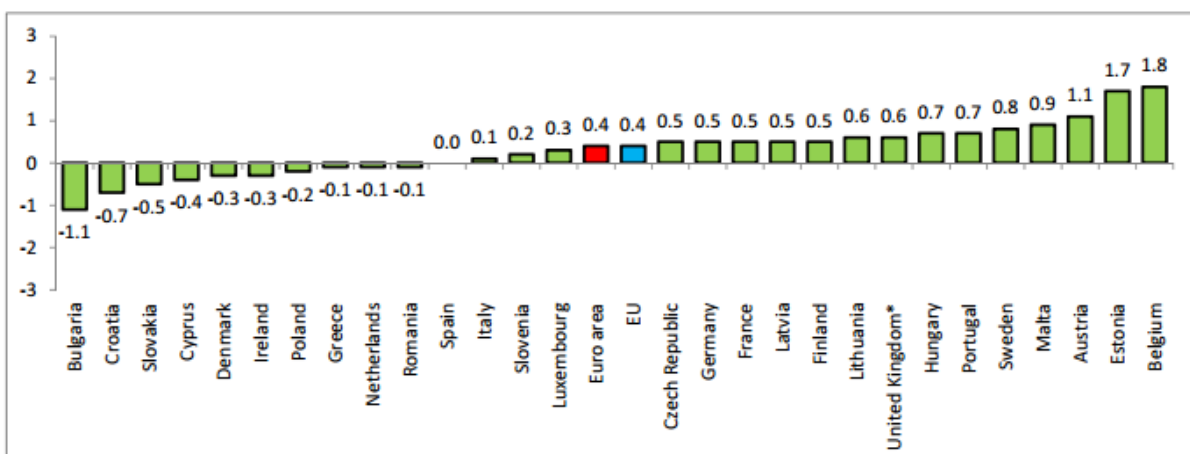


News in brief



Graph 1- Production in Construction (red - Euro Area, blue - EU28)

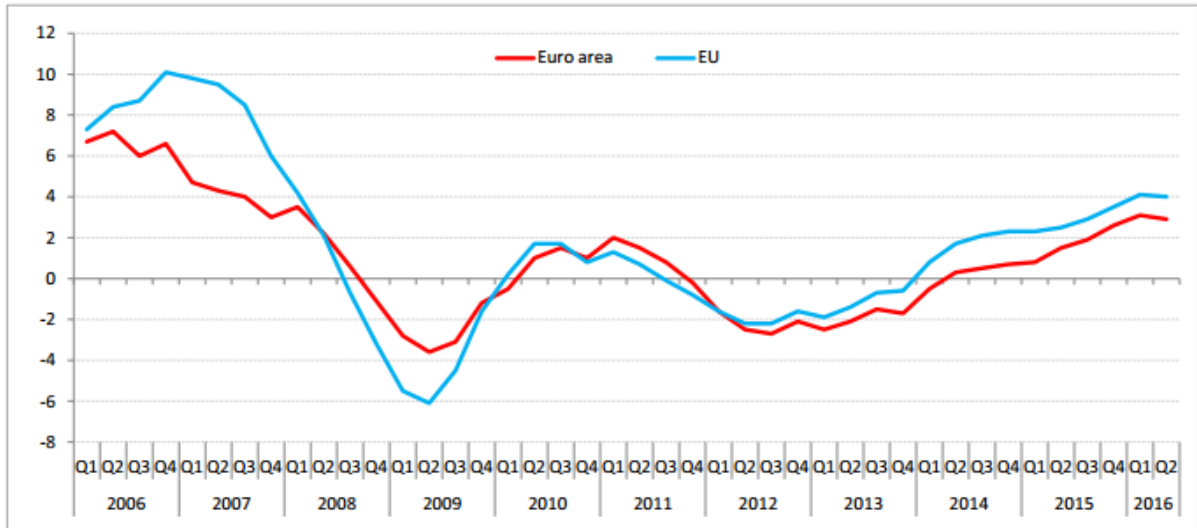
According to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in August 2016 compared with July 2016, the seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector decreased by 0.9% in the euro area (EA19) and by 1.3% in the EU28.



*Data for UK is for August 2016.

Graph 2 - Annual inflation rates (%) in September 2016, in ascending order

Both Euro area and EU 28 annual inflation was 0.4% in September 2016, up from 0.2% in August. The lowest annual rates were registered in Bulgaria (-1.1%) while the highest annual rates were recorded in Belgium (1.8%), Estonia (1.7%) and Austria (1.1%)



Graph 3 - House prices (%) Second quarter of 2016 compared with second quarter of 2015 (red- Euro area, blue- EU28)

House prices rose by 2.9% in the euro area and by 4.0% in the EU in the second quarter of 2016 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The highest annual increases in house prices were recorded in Hungary and Latvia (both +10.3%) while falls were observed in Cyprus (-8.9%) and Italy (-1.4%).



Agenda

NOVEMBER

2 November 2016
Fire Safe Europe meeting
Brussels, Belgium

15 November 2016
ECP TF HEH
Brussels, Belgium

16 November 2016
BIBM Board meeting
Brussels, Belgium

17 November 2016
Concrete Dialogue - Concrete Initiative
Brussels, Belgium

22 November 2016
CPE workshop coordination of sustainability initiatives
Brussels, Belgium

22 November 2016
ECP TF Fire and Eurocodes
Brussels, Belgium

24-25 November 2016
CEN/TC 229
Vienna, Austria

30 November 2016

European Concrete Platform Board
Brussels, Belgium

30 November 2016
EMA meeting
Brussels, Belgium

DECEMBER

7 December 2016
CPE CPR implementation
Brussels, Belgium

8 December 2016
EU Technical Platform on simplified labelling
Brussels, Belgium

9 December 2016
Concrete Initiative AhG
Brussels, Belgium

JANUARY 2017

30 January 2017
ECP TF Sustainable Concrete
Webmeeting

To the Newsletter of Construction Products Europe (former CEPMC), please follow [this link](#).

To read the Newsletter of CEMBUREAU, please follow [this link](#). You can also subscribe directly following this link <http://www.cembureau.eu/newsletter/subscriptions>.

To read the Quarterly Newsletter of The Concrete Initiative, please follow [this link](#).

List of Acronyms:



CPE - Construction Product Europe

DG GROW - Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

ECP - European Concrete Platform

EMA - European Masonry Alliance

IPHA - International Pre-stressed Hollowcore Association

TF - Task Force