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TOWARDS CLIMATE NEUTRALITY: DIMINISHING OF THE CO₂ EMISSIONS IN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS' PRODUCTION IN LATVIA

Keywords: "green economy"; construction materials; CO₂ emission reduction.

According to the Regulation 2018/842 of the European Parliament and of the Council, EU countries should reduce the emission of the CO₂ and not only by offering alternative energy sources, renovating (insulating) existing buildings, using electric transport, sorting waste etc., but also by using "greener" building materials in construction (e.g., use of recycled steel, change of the concrete in building construction to the wood, etc.).

These requirements probably will change Latvian building materials manufacturing sub-sector and, by statistical sub-sector's numbers, directly or indirectly it may touch:

- More than 100 000 employees (data of Central Statistical Bureau, Republic of Latvia) biggest part of whom receives approximately 1000 - 1500 EUR brutto salary (CSB data on 2021 Q2);
- Summary metal product and wooden product approximately export amount 600 mio EUR (CSB data on 2021 Q2).

Research's tasks:

- 1) Analyze the time-series of salaries in the construction field (with possible specification in construction material production) and evaluate the influence of Covid-19 pandemic;
- 2) Analyze the development of construction materials production in Latvia taking into account the requirements related for use of "greener" construction materials in construction. Analyze the Latvia's export of construction materials.

Expected results

Research results could be useful and used as one part for future development of a specific mechanism (impact) to be offered to construction material production companies in Latvia, which would help to assess the factors influencing the production sub-sector (in terms of CO₂ emissions reduction). Consequently, that should allow the companies to become more competitive doing export.

Finally, the topicality of the research is related also to the fact that there are no empirical studies and scientifically substantiated evidence of the existing performance of the already implemented investment program in Latvia in the field of construction materials production.

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