

## Focus Area Provision of Competence

The provision of competence is one of the most pressing issues for the construction industry to deal with in both the short and the long term and there are two areas that represent the foundation for being able to do this. One is to increase the attractiveness of the industry, so that more people apply for construction-related courses and occupations. The second is to make the education system understand that the construction industry is a future industry and that they must therefore be able to offer and develop relevant education in a wide spectrum.

The task is to further develop the education system so as to meet changing needs in both the industry and society at large, as well as to create more and attractive courses that attract more applicants. Demarcation has been made of technical courses at higher education level where the needs and challenges are particularly great and are therefore implemented in the following activities as a first stage:

- The Construction Forum, represented by the parties' top management, meets the Minister for Higher Education and Research to discuss and describe the industry's need for changes in places of education and training, as well as in the content, programmes and structure of the education. The focus should be on increasing the number of places in education and training, a common structure of education with a focus on the Bologna model and on the subject areas that need to be strengthened and developed, such as digitalisation and sustainability.
- The Construction Forum, represented by regional managers, meets annually with senior management, vice-chancellors or deputy vice-chancellors at the respective universities, LTU, KTH, Chalmers, LTH and other engineering courses in higher education that have a construction focus, to discuss changes in the content, programmes and structure of the education. The focus should be on the number of places in education and training and a structure to facilitate cooperation between institutions, as well as which subject areas need to be strengthened and developed, for example that important areas for infrastructure are maintained and developed, while new areas such as digitalisation and sustainability need to be integrated into the education.
- The Construction Forum, represented by employees with an interest in and commitment to education issues, twice a year meets representatives at departmental level, heads of department and programme directors, as well as relevant administrative heads at the universities, LTU, KTH, Chalmers, LTH and other selected universities with engineering courses in higher education that have a construction focus, in order to promote curricula, course content and focus on lines and/or programmes, for example to highlight the need to ensure that courses and course content that are important for infrastructure are maintained and developed, while new areas such as digitalisation and sustainability need to be integrated into the education.
- The Construction Forum regularly meets the network of teachers of engineering courses in higher education in the subject areas that are of particular interest to the construction industry.
- The industry partners offer guest lecturers, training assistants etc. to courses where a connection to practical project activities is important and offer placements to students.
- The parties set up a group to develop a detailed plan for further work.
- Reporting to the Construction Forum is done once a year.