

The project C3PO

In the rest of the world, 3D-printing is already on the rise. Lots of possibilities are already being executed, as for example the printing of temporary housing and complete apartments. With the C3PO project: "Co-Creation: 3D-printing with enterprises" the province of Antwerp wants to speed up this innovative technology in Flanders in cooperation with Kamp C. With the extra financial support out of Europe, 1.6 million euros were invested in a printing infrastructure at Kamp C in Westerlo. With this, the construction sector can test prototypes, experiment and make 0series as much as they want.



The construction sector is often linked to dirty, unattractive jobs that require a lot of physical effort from the employee. And it may be like that with the traditional building methods, which also proceed very slowly. But now, also the construction sector is changing and evolving to a hightech environment: a 3D-printer integrates a very modern production technique in the building process. In the whole world, 3D-printing in construction is on the rise very strongly but not in Flanders, where everything is still quiet. The C3PO project wants to change this and wants to integrate 3D-printing in the Flanders construction world in an accelerated manner. Moreover, Kamp C has succeeded in this by printing a demo house with a 3D concrete printer. The house was built in 1 piece, unique on a world scale.

The government, business world and science organizations join hands

In the C3PO project, 8 organizations join hands under supervision of Kamp C, the provincial Center of Durability and Innovation in Construction. The other organizations, all from a science and business world are: Ghent University, Thomas More University, Van Roey, Beneens, Trias architects, ETIB nv/Concrete House and ViCre.

From the EFRO project C3PO ('Co-Creation: 3D-printing with enterprises), the partners can count on a support from Europe for an amount of 668.320 euros. The project fits in the GTI Kempen (GTI means targeted territorial investment, an integrated strategy for a specific area, at which different European funds and programmes are merged).

The Antwerp provincial government made an extra investment of no less than 723.495 euros. The province of Antwerp wants to make sure that the sector goes along in the hightech possibilities and that there is more and more thought about sustainable building.

'A playground' for 3D-printing in the construction sector at Kamp C

To stimulate 3D-printing in the construction world, all partners were joined to get a maximum exchange of knowledge. This project has to inspire and convince them to participate in the necessary changes. Both the construction world and educational as scientific institutions need a location to experiment. And this is what happens at Kamp C: there is a full experimentation with this construction technique. All companies, research and educational institutions that are interested will be welcome soon at Kamp C to test the 3D-concrete printer. The tests that were done in the past year in preparation for printing the house, will help to clarify technical questions. In 2020 the project partners printed a house at Kamp C (see press release).

Duration project: June 1, 2017 to November 30, 2020.