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Stereotypes of migrant workers and language in the Norwegian construction industry

Stereotypes have been identified as a prevalent and important factor in work conditions and relations in Norwegian construction sites, not least for the many migrant workers who characterise the building industry. The role of stereotypes - especially the 'Poles' or 'Eastern Europeans' ones - has been studied as a co-factor of discrimination and even stratification in the construction industry. Language, e.g. in the form of problematisation of multilingualism, is often part and parcel of such stereotypical constructions. In this presentation I will demonstrate how such constructions play out in everyday practices, institutional discourses as well as national legislation.