

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 14 May 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

Covid-19 Updates

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Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
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- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

ACEI Working Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed while the Secretariat is working remotely. Calls are being diverted and email is monitored at info@acei.ie. ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle also welcomes member feedback and queries to sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

ACEI Communications and Website

The [ACEI Website](#) continues to be updated with current information from government and others. To assist in the dissemination of ACEI news and other materials, members are encouraged to connect with and follow the ACEI on [LinkedIn](#).

ACEI Annual General Meeting

The ACEI Annual General Meeting will take place in a virtual environment at 12pm – 1pm on Friday, 22 May. An MS Teams invite will be emailed to all FConsEI and RConsEI members. If you plan to attend, please 'accept' the invitation so that a list of those participating can be recorded in advance.

ACEI Future Leaders nominated to EFCA 2020 Awards

ACEI is pleased to advise that Marie-Claire Daly, PUNCH Consulting Engineers and Seamus Doyle, O'Connor Sutton Cronin, have been nominated by ACEI for the 2020 EFCA Future Leader Award. This year 24 entries were received from nine EFCA member associations (MAs) across Europe. The award is open to all professionals working in EFCA MAs, and aims to highlight the talent of the next generation of engineering leaders. The EFCA Future Leader Award winners will be announced on 4 June 2020.

Phased Return to Workplaces

Following the publication of the [Government Roadmap](#), all firms are advised to undertake a slow, phased return to offices and workplaces with limited numbers of staff. Health and safety advice / protocols, and instructions in the roadmap should be strictly observed, and employees should continue to work remotely when possible. Tara Cosgrove of Beale & Co has set out [key measures](#) to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The article notes that 'every workplace and business is going to have different concerns and considerations, and a bespoke risk management exercise will need to be carried out by each and every employer regardless of size, skills and turnover.'

EFCA News updates

EFCA continues to provide [updates from Europe](#) in relation to the business impact of the crisis. It also recently endorsed the European Business Services Alliance ([EBSA](#)) [statement](#) on the proposed European roadmap aimed at lifting coronavirus containment measures. Along with ACEI, EFCA strongly advises that it is essential for clients to continue with design and development to ensure a future pipeline of projects for professionals and contractors working in the built environment sector.

ACE UK Webinar Series

The opening [series of webinars](#) developed by the UK Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) was completed this week. A number of interesting episodes were provided including topics relating to: Staying Motivated, Tax Credits and Future Recovery. A further webinar series is currently planned.

Ibec Recovery Plan - *Reboot and Reimagine*

Ibec recently published a recovery plan for the Irish economy, '[Reboot and Reimagine](#)'. The key elements of the campaign provide a framework for a sustainable future in Ireland after the pandemic. Central to the plan is addressing current major challenges as well as those from history. Six thematic areas are outlined as priorities including: Engagement and crisis management; Fiscal policy and stimulus measures; Get people back to work; Use of the National Development Plan (NDP) review to stimulate investment; Seize international opportunities and address Brexit challenges; and Reimagine a better Ireland.

Tips for Getting your Point Across

Even in the best of times, never mind during a crisis, it can be difficult in meetings and other situations to [get your point across](#) calmly and effectively. In a recent article, Eva Barrow outlines nine key tips to help with getting your voice, and views, to be heard and understood.

Recent Good News

- Researchers in NUI Galway have collaborated with Endotronix, a US medical technology firm to set up a new project, [CRÓGA](#). The aim of the collaboration is to remotely manage heart failure arising in patients with the coronavirus.
- A new collaboration, [Ireland Together](#) is a non-profit group of professionals and entrepreneurs who are focused on finding innovative solutions to the working, living and leisure challenges brought to light by the crisis.
- Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) has recently announced funding for a project at [University College Dublin](#), to develop and supply necessary reagents and materials for coronavirus testing in hospitals based in the east of the country.
- An Irish entrepreneur, Neil Sands, has ordered machinery to produce low cost, high quality [face masks](#) in Ireland. Production is due to start in the next two weeks, and masks will be available to buy online and in selected locations soon afterwards.

Business Impact of Covid-19

The Central Statistics Offices (CSO) has published results of its [survey of 3000 firms](#) with a 26% response rate. The research was carried out during 16 March – 19 April 2020. One positive finding was that almost 75% of companies state that they have the financial resources to continue operating during the crisis. Nearly half of the respondents have applied for Government financial supports.

World Economic Forum COVID Action Platform

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has developed the [COVID Action Platform](#). This is a global framework to bring together business communities for collective action and mobilize support for a response to the pandemic. The platform has been set up with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) support, and is open to all firms, industry groups and other stakeholders.