

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 4 June 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

Covid-19 Updates

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
- [FIDIC](#)

Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government](#)
- [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 Update from DHPLG on Life Safety Systems

ACEI was recently in communication with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) to request information on fire safety and fire protection systems. An update in relation to the information provided is available on the [ACEI Website](#). The DHPLG notes that fire servicing and the maintenance of fire safety and fire protection systems in buildings support the fire safety of building occupants, and assist persons having control over buildings to meet their statutory duties.

EFCA 2020 Future Trends Booklet

The newly published [EFCA 2020 Future Trends Booklet](#) builds on the 2018 and 2019 editions that focused on disruptive technologies and innovative management models respectively. The 2020 booklet examines the importance of achieving the correct balance of practical aspects and applications within specific innovations. It looks at the right combinations of technologies and techniques to adopt with various clients in different markets, taking into account the size of the firm involved.

Maurizio Boi, lead author of the booklet notes that: *Along with the world, the industry as we know it is changing It may not be the future it has prepared for. However, the European engineering consulting industry must change with it'.*

DPER Report: Pre-Covid-19 Productivity Research in Built Environment

A new report, commissioned by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform ([DPER](#)), has been published this week. Produced by KPMG and Future Analytics Consulting, and peer reviewed by staff in TU Dublin, the report addresses [productivity in the Irish built environment](#) sector before the pandemic. It also identifies a number of recommendations and actions that could be initiated to make improvements. All of the relevant research was completed in 2019 so the Covid-19 impact is not taken into account. The findings from the report will be used to inform the work of the Construction Sector Group ([CSG](#)) of which ACEI is a member.

DCC Basement Construction Policy Overturned

Two property development firms have recently secured High Court orders on consent overturning a policy adopted by Dublin City Council (DCC) in relation to [basement construction](#). A major concern raised was that the policy allowed for measures which would have a significant impact on basements and underground development. In particular, the firms argued that a requirement for basements to be set back half a metre from relevant site boundaries would negatively affect the commercial viability of a number of developments.

The ACEI Structures committee has been addressing the basement issue and further input from members is welcome. If you wish to contribute to the discussions contact info@acei.ie with the subject line: DCC Basement Policy.

Role of Project Ireland 2040 for Recovery

KPMG in Ireland recently hosted an [IPFA](#) webinar on Project Ireland 2040's role in recovering from the Covid-19 crisis. In a [summary of the event](#), KPMG's Michele Connolly, Head of Infrastructure and Government and industry, welcomes the government's rapid response to the pandemic. She notes it is also encouraging that Project Ireland 2040 is still being recognised as an important key enabler to support economic recovery and growth.

CIOB - Mental Health in the Built Environment

A recent report, [Understanding Mental Health in the Built Environment](#) from the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), found that 70% of people in the construction industry experienced stress due to poor communication. CIOB President Professor Charles Egbu has made mental health and wellbeing in the industry one of the themes of his presidency, and noting that: *"We know that the coronavirus outbreak is affecting the way many of us live, work, and play, and in recent days it has become extremely difficult for individuals who are doing their best in extreme circumstances. Tackling mental ill-health is going to remain a significant challenge for the industry and we must work as a collective – involving industry, government, and professional bodies - to make more fundamental changes and improvements to mental health provision."*

Recent Good News

- The Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has developed free online resources, designed by experts to provide access to high quality energy training. The [SEAI Energy Academy](#) offers a wide range of courses and modules focused on all areas of energy efficiency and management. The training is designed to help businesses save energy and lower costs.
- Some new [social distancing solutions](#) have been developed by a number of start-up enterprises. These developments include video analytics, wearable technology and queuing apps.
- A recent article in the [Telegraph](#) news website outlines some potential methods of creating a more prosperous economy while still protecting the planet.
- Employees from the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) helped the Defence Forces to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel. The equipment was obtained by the OGP in partnership with the HSE.
- A recent TED article explains that those with a greater capacity for self-compassion tend to like themselves, are better motivated, less lazy, and ultimately more successful over time. In the article, psychologist Susan David explains how the quality of [being kinder to yourself](#) can be cultivated.

Self-Compassion and Gratitude Webinar 7 June

A [Self Compassion and Gratitude webinar](#) by Irish Times contributor, psychologist Padraig O'Morain, is taking place at 3pm, this Sunday 7 June. The learning objectives of the event include: Self-compassion and gratitude techniques for all areas of your life; How self-compassion and gratitude improve well-being and reduce stress; Easy ways to make self-compassion and gratitude part of your daily life.

Lighthouse Club Launches Free Wellbeing App

To assist workers in the built environment to cope with mental health issues, the UK Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity launched a free and confidential 24/7 helpline and [Wellbeing App](#) on 3 June. This is also available to Irish workers.