

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 8 October 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 Updates

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

Online Resources

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

ACEI 2020 Engineering Excellence and other Awards

The winners of the ACEI 2020 Engineering Excellence awards were announced last week and uploaded on the [ACEI website](#). As the Awards Dinner had to be cancelled, ACEI representatives for the winning projects attended a socially distanced photo-call event in Merrion Square on 30 September. Framed certificates were presented on behalf of ACEI by 2019-2020 President Gerry Carty. A full page ACEI feature on the Awards was subsequently published in the Business Post on 4 October, including a citation and a photo of each project.

Also presented with certificates on the day were [Michael Nolan](#), former Chief Executive TII and President's Award Winner; and [Marie-Claire Daly](#) of PUNCH Consulting Engineers, winner of the ACEI Future Leader Award. ACEI congratulates all firms and individuals on their awards, providing some welcome good news in these difficult times.

Launch of 2020 State of Ireland Report

At the invitation of Engineers Ireland, ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle recently participated in the advisory group tasked with the development of the *2020 State of Ireland Report: Engineering a green and digital recovery*. This is the tenth annual publication examining the state of critical sectors in Ireland's built environment. The report advocates for a green and digital future, driven by investments in infrastructure, technology and education. ACEI members are welcome to attend the virtual launch of the report at 9am on 15 October. [Register now](#) for a link to the event.

Fire Alarm Designs - Conflicts between the Technical Guidance Documents and I.S.3218

ACEI member, Paul Condon has recently developed a document on [fire alarm design conflicts](#) and kindly provided it for circulation to ACEI members. The views he presents indicate potentially far-reaching implications in respect of Certification, Compliance with the Fire Safety Certification process and perhaps other areas of insurance and designer Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII).

Webinar: The Role of Digital Technology in Climate Action

A free, virtual seminar on the role of digital technology in climate action is taking place at 4pm on 10 October. The seminar will give participants a detailed understanding of the urgency of businesses taking a lead on Climate Action, what actions they can take now and how digital technology can enable these actions. Further information and registration details are provided in the [event link](#).

New Report Published on Demand for Skills in the Irish Built Environment Sector

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) is a body tasked with advising the Government on the current and future skills needs of the Irish economy. Along with other Construction Sector Group (CSG) colleagues, ACEI Secretary General, Sarah Ingle was a member of an EGFSN project steering group studying skills requirements within the Irish built environment sector over the next decade. The resulting report: *Building Future Skills - The Demand for Skills Within Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030* was launched on 30th September by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English T.D. and the chair of the EGFSN, Tony Donohoe.

The report and its appendices can be reviewed on the [EGFSN website](#), along with a [promotional animation](#). Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris TD welcomed the report's findings, and committed to helping advance the associated recommendations through Government engagement with the key stakeholders identified in the report.

Consultation on Construction Products Regulation Review

The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government has advised of some [future developments](#) relating to Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, known as the Construction Products Regulations or "the CPR".

While no agreement has yet been reached on the specifics of a CPR revision, the European Commission has prepared a document assessing the impact and the preparation of a new proposal. The purpose of this document is to provide a continuing open dialogue with industry and other stakeholders to inform the discussions.

The review of the CPR aims to address the issues identified in the 2019 evaluation and improve how the single market for construction products functions.

The EC now invites stakeholder feedback on the refined indicative options, via an [online survey](#), which is open until 25 December 2020.

Recent Good News

- ACEI member firm Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions, has been listed in the top 50 consultants based on responses to the [2020 Geotechnical Services File \(GSF\) survey](#).
- ACEI member firm Arup, has committed to [achieving net zero emissions](#) across its entire operations by 2030, covering everything from the energy used in offices to goods and services purchased.
- The School of Civil and Structural Engineering at Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) has won the Francesco Maffioli Award of Excellence for its Creative Design Studio Framework and its extraordinary [contribution to engineering education](#).
- An €87.4 billion financial support has been approved for 16 member states under SURE - a temporary EU instrument to [mitigate unemployment risks](#) during the pandemic crisis.
- Microsoft and SSE Airtricity have partnered to install [internet-connected solar panels](#) on 27 schools across Ireland. The project will enable primary and secondary schools to power classrooms using solar energy, reducing their carbon footprint and costs.
- Austria is aiming to produce its entire electricity supply by 2030 [using renewable energies](#). Financing from the EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria will lead to the development of one of the country's largest wind farms.
- A University of Ottawa-based research team is conducting a pan-Canadian study, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, to investigate the perceived role of engineering for women and by women in society.

How to Avoid Morning Anxiety

Anxiety that occurs in the morning time can negatively impact planned activities. In a [recent article](#), mental health professionals suggest a number of natural methods to cope with anxiety early in the day. These include walking in the sunlight, creating a good routine and eating well.