

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 1 April 2021**

## Information and Advice for ACEI Members

### ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie) with queries or contact [sarah.ingle@acei.ie](mailto: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 'Bridging the Gap' Project

Following on from ACEI President Conor McCarthy's recent letter to members, ACEI is pleased to advise that the association is embarking on an important initiative entitled "Bridging The Gap". The goal of the project is to explore the current value gap between our member firms and other comparable professional service firms, e.g. lawyers, accountants, and to inform a process aimed at increasing the earning potential of consulting engineers. Grant Thornton has been engaged to work on this and help determine what steps can be taken to address the gap.

While we appreciate this is a significant challenge and we do not expect an easy fix to be identified, we consider it our duty to the current and future cohort of consulting engineers to tackle this issue head on. Our contribution to the betterment of society is vast, and to maximise our positive impacts, we need to ensure that we attract, and retain in, the brightest and best to engineering. To enable this, we must be able to offer equivalent terms and conditions of employment to this comparable professional services sectors. The "Bridging the Gap" project is considered a crucial step on this journey.

### ACEI Future Leader Award 2021

The deadline has been extended for the 2021 ACEI Future Leader Award. Further information and application details are available on the [ACEI Website](#). The closing date is Wednesday 14 April 2021, and all suitably qualified engineers aged 35 or under are encouraged to apply. Please pass on the details to relevant colleagues in your firm.

### ACEI Represented on Whole Life Carbon National Leadership Forum

ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle has been invited to become a member of the newly established *National Leadership Forum in Whole Life Carbon*. The Irish Green Building Council ([IGBC](#)) is managing this, with the objective of setting out a national roadmap with associated actions and timelines for a carbon neutral built environment in Ireland by 2050, in accordance with Paris agreement made at COP21.

The forum will direct the work of a technical working group made up of IGBC staff and industry experts which will advise on the technical aspects of the roadmap. In parallel, the technical group will work on the delivery of key technical enablers for whole life carbon measurement such as, Irish specific data, tools, guidance and benchmarks some of which are already under development.

## ACEI 2021 Engineering Excellence Awards

Adjudication is currently taking place on the ACEI 2021 project awards. A shortlist in each category will be developed in the coming weeks and the successful firms notified. It is hoped that an Awards Dinner can take place in September this year, public health guidelines permitting.

## ACEI Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the ACEI Annual General Meeting will take place at 11.30am – 1pm on Friday 23 April so please save the date. An invitation to register, along with the agenda, Annual Report, and other papers will be provided two weeks in advance.

## European Business Statistics Report

This first edition of [Key figures on European Business Statistics](#) provides visualisations and innovative data presentations supported by concise texts in the context of an introduction to European business statistics. The publication presents a selection of key business statistics indicators for for the EU, member states and the EFTA countries.

Detailed analyses of four specific parts of the business economy – industry, construction, distributive trades and other non-financial services are included. An initial review of the impact of the pandemic on the business economy is also provided.

## Joint Industry Sustainability Conference

ACEI has joined with SCSl, RIAI, Engineers Ireland and the Irish Planning Institute to develop a joint, half day conference on the morning of 21 April. Sustainability is the focus of the event, across three main themes:

- Creating the circular economy for the built environment
- Reimagining the sustainable city
- The green future of buildings

The cost for members is €30, booking and further information is available on the [ACEI Website](#).

## Recent Good News

- Congratulations are due to ACEI member firm, Varming Consulting Engineers, which has become the first dedicated building services consultancy in Ireland to join the World Green Building Council's [Net Zero Carbon](#) Buildings Commitment by 2030.
- More than 60 firms in Ireland, including ACEI member Arup, have signed up to Business in the Community Ireland's (BITCI) new [Low Carbon Pledge](#), committing their companies to setting science-based carbon emission reduction targets.
- This week [Our Rural Future](#) was published. This is the most ambitious and transformational policy for rural development for many years. The new policy is very welcome, reflecting as it does *"the unprecedented change in living and working patterns during COVID-19 and the significant opportunities this presents for rural communities – from remote working and revitalising our town centres to job creation, developing a green economy and enhancing our outdoor amenities."*
- The National Transport Authority (NTA) has announced spending totalling €72.8m for 340 [sustainable transport projects](#) in 19 local authorities. The funding is in addition to the multi-annual active travel investment programme which has already designated €240m to Dublin, the GDA and regional cities.

## Managing the Return to Workplaces

A recent article in the MITSloan Management Review explains ways to prevent the return to offices from becoming an '[emotional roller coaster](#)'. The authors outline a number of clear steps to help employees feel supported and safe in advance of an eventual return to the workplace. These include: being transparent, addressing concerns early on, discussing expectations, involving people, highlighting what teams will gain and presenting the change as an experiment.

## ACEI Holiday Arrangements

The ACEI Office will be closed during 2 - 6 April inclusive. Sarah, Louise and Toni in the Secretariat, along with President Conor McCarthy and the Executive Board wish all ACEI member firms a well-deserved break around this time.