

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 24 March 2022

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI President's Closing Remarks



During this final week of my term as President of ACEI, I am very impressed as I look back on the many achievements of the Association over the past year. We faced significant challenges, ranging from the society-wide lockdown to industry-specific issues. The Consulting Engineering profession faced these challenges head on and continued delivering for our clients.

The concern we had just a year ago, of a post-pandemic recession, did not come to pass. Instead, we saw the Irish economy grow by more than 13% in 2021, a very strong performance. This featured throughout the year in the discussions that our ACEI delegations had with the senior leaders of key client organisations and relevant government departments. We kept them apprised of the challenges our member firms are facing. The level and quality of engagement by these business leaders was very encouraging and they understood how our challenges – including PII, ensuring a fair risk / reward balance, and dealing with the skills shortage in the engineering sector – will have knock on impacts for their organisations, in terms of our capacity to meet their needs for the design, management and consultancy advisory services that we provide.

The Association maintained a focus on these outwards facing activities, advocating on behalf of member firms and promoting our profession. It also continued to offer an extensive range of member services. I was heartened to see a high level of participation by members on the numerous training courses, webinars and workshops, which received consistently positive feedback. I was particularly proud of the Pledge to Net Zero initiative that was launched last November, to support member firms on their journey to a net zero carbon economy. This, together with the follow-up Sustainability Summit held earlier this month, provided a detailed toolkit for ACEI member firms to commit to science-based targets, on their journey to the 2050 net zero target.

The outlook for our industry is positive. The National Development Plan (NDP), launched last October, with an investment package of €165 billion over the next decade, has a focus on addressing the major social infrastructure challenges in housing, climate action, transport, healthcare and utilities. Consulting Engineers will play a vital role in ensuring that this investment is sustainable and improves the quality of life. However, it is important that client organisations and the wider public value the engineers working in the built environment sector, so that it is an attractive career choice for students and graduates. This will be necessary to ensure that Consulting Engineering firms can attract and retain high calibre staff.

Strengthening the Consulting Engineering community is an important objective to help us attract suitable people to our profession. This conclusion is explored further in the commendable Bridging the Gap study, which assesses the gap between how we are valued and rewarded, versus other comparable professions. There are many insights in this report for us to discuss over the coming months.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for your engagement with ACEI throughout the year. Friday's AGM is another important event for you to attend, during which we will inaugurate our incoming President, Brian Kavanagh. I hope you join me in wishing Brian well for his term and I am looking forward to his stewardship of the Association. It has been my honour to have served as President for the past year and I am looking forward to a bright future for the Consulting Engineering community, as we deliver for our clients, the wider public and the environment.

David McHugh
President
ACEI

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 Annual General Meeting

The ACEI Annual General Meeting will take place virtually tomorrow, at 11.30am – 1pm, Friday 25 March. The agenda, Annual Report, and related papers have already been circulated by email. A Teams meeting invite will be provided to all FConsEI and RConsEI members who register in advance to info@acei.ie.

We look forward to a high attendance at the AGM to support the ACEI Executive Board that have been working hard on behalf of members throughout the difficult second year of the pandemic.

PSDP and Graduate Development Course

There are a couple of places available on the two day virtual PSDP (Project Supervisor Design Process) Course on 30 March and 6 April. A bespoke Graduate Development Course planned for May and June is also now open for registration.

For further information and booking details on both courses visit the CPD & Training section on the [ACEI website](http://acei.ie).

Register for Pledge to Net Zero

ACEI encourages all members to continue to register for, and commit to, the Pledge to Net Zero science-based targets. One of consulting engineers' core roles is to advise clients to manage and deliver on environmental challenges, and signing up to Pledge to Net Zero (PTNZ) is a clear way for member firms to show leadership in this area. Further information is available on a dedicated Pledge to Net Zero webpage on the [ACEI Website](http://acei.ie).



ACEI Member Image

Members are reminded that a 'Member of ACEI' image is available for download, see above, on the member administration section of the ACEI Website. This has been designed to use on members' websites, a signoff on emails, on site hoarding signs, or anywhere where it is deemed appropriate to promote ACEI membership. Any queries about the use of the image, or how to access it, can be directed to info@acei.ie.

EFCA European Sector Review

As recently announced, we are pleased to advise members that EFCA has released its first ever [European Sector Review](#). The 2021 review aims to highlight the strength and importance of the European Consulting Engineering industry, as well as the significant developments that are taking place in various market sectors and how firms in each of these sectors are repositioning strategically to meet the challenges.

EFCA's plan is to repeat the survey and review each year, to give an understanding of the sector's evolving role and capabilities, and to highlight the ongoing response of member firms to developments in the industry.

EFCA Newsletter

The March 2022 edition of the [EFCA Newsletter](#) includes a statement on the current situation in Russia and Ukraine.

In response to the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression carried out by Russia against Ukraine, EFCA expresses its support to the people of Ukraine, Ukrainian engineering consultants and the Ukrainian Member Association Interstate Consultants Engineers Guild (ICEG). In early March, the EFCA Board of Directors adopted the [EFCA statement](#) on the Russian invasion.

FIDIC CEO Update

The latest [FIDIC CEO update](#) has been published. This edition focuses on the situation in Ukraine and also details FIDIC's response following a meeting of the FIDIC Board.

Preparing Engineering Students for Sustainable Development Goals Challenges

Members may be interested in reading a recent article in the [European Journal of Engineering Education](#), co-authored by former consulting engineer Dr Una Beagon of TU Dublin.

The research undertaken for the article addresses the lack of agreement on competences that should be prioritised to prepare engineering students to address and resolve future sustainability needs. The overall findings suggest ways to overcome the various challenges involved.