

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 14 July 2022

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is open three days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Phone 01-6425588 or email info@acei.ie to make contact with the Secretariat.

News 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 Health & Safety Courses

ACEI and Engineers Ireland will continue to provide DSC and PSDP courses in a virtual environment for the rest of 2022. Further information and booking details for September and October are available on the CPD section of the [ACEI Website](#).

ACEI Sponsors BIM Coordinator Summit 2022

ACEI is pleased to sponsor and participate in the 2022 BIM Coordinator Summit on 8 September 2022. The event takes place live at the RDS Dublin and virtual attendance is also possible. Members are encouraged to register and learn from BIM experts in the sector. The event is set to be a celebration of excellence and digital innovation in Architecture, Engineering and Construction. Further information and booking details are available [here](#).

EFCA Newsletter and Spring 2022 Barometer

The latest edition of the [EFCA Newsletter](#) was published last month. Details of events including the EFCA GAM and Future Leader meetings attended by ACEI representatives are provided. In the 'EU Newsroom' there is an update on the Ukraine situation along with links to two EU public consultations in Environmental Liability and Waste Frameworks. Outgoing EFCA Secretary General Jan Van der Putten also provides a closing editorial note as he exits the role after 30 years.

In other news the [EFCA Spring Barometer 2022](#) is now available. Staff shortages continue to be a huge challenge and rising inflation along with related factors are key concerns for the sector.

FIDIC CEO Update

In the June 2022 [FIDIC CEO Update](#), Nelson Ogunshakin outlines recent activities, including an in-person Board meeting in Singapore where for four of the Board members it was their first face-to-face meeting since 2019 due to the pandemic. Nelson also provides an update on FIDIC's training operations under the banner of the 'FIDIC Academy'. Later in the year a new FIDIC Academy general manager will be appointed along with a management board.

FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference 2022

Bookings are open for the [FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference 2022](#). There is forward-looking theme of: *Building a better tomorrow, by investing today: Sustainable infrastructure development to improve community wellbeing* and discussions will focus on how consultants can engineer a sustainable future in a way that benefits communities worldwide. The venue is in Geneva, Switzerland during 11-13 September 2022 and will bring together the world's premier engineers and infrastructure stakeholders from across the globe. After two years of virtual engagement, this 2022 event will be held in person and is set to be an important international gathering for the industry.

ACEI Office Closure Summer 2022

The ACEI Office will be closed during 25 July – 15 August inclusive. We hope all members will have a good Summer and enjoy a well earned break over the coming weeks.

Funding for Circular Economy Innovation

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy](#) is an annual funding call to support the development, demonstration and implementation of circular economy initiatives. The 2022 call is still open with a fund worth €650k.

Applications for funding in the range of €50k-€100k are invited to support Irish firms developing circular solutions for product and service design, production, distribution and use of resources. The fund is aimed at innovative projects targeting several areas including construction and buildings. The maximum award available is €100,000 and is provided on a shared cost contribution basis, from 25%-95% of the total eligible project costs incurred.

Call to Participate in Climate Conversations 2022

Launched on 1 July 2022, [Climate Conversations 2022](#) is a Government initiative looking for ideas to shape future iterations of the national [Climate Action Plan](#). Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications believes it is essential for the Government to work with industry and the public to achieve future sustainability. He notes that it is *"important for people to have their say on how we can all contribute to this ambitious goal, how it will affect their lives in practical ways and how we, as a Government, can engage, enable and empower people to adapt and realise the opportunities this transition presents."*

In an online questionnaire, people and firms can provide opinions on how different actions by individuals, communities and Government can help Ireland work towards its carbon-neutral goals. ACEI members are encouraged to contribute to this important conversation on climate matters.

EU Solar Energy Strategy

In preparation for the development of an EU solar energy strategy, a call for evidence with an open public consultation process was undertaken during January – March 2022. The Commission also organised a high-level virtual stakeholder conference on the EU solar strategy, as well as three technical workshops. The results of the research were used to draft the communication on [EU solar energy strategy](#) along with a summary report.

Pledge to Net Zero

The ACEI Executive continues to encourage all members to register for, and commit to, the Pledge to Net Zero (PtNZ) science-based targets. One of consulting engineers' core roles is to advise clients to manage and deliver on environmental challenges, and signing up to PtNZ is a clear way for member firms to show leadership in this area. Further information is available on a dedicated webpage on the [ACEI Website](#).

Recent Good News

- Congratulations to member firm O'Connor Sutton Cronin (OCSC) which has been awarded [The Keepwell Mark](#), recognising the firm's best practice in wellness policies. The Keepwell programme focuses on key areas of workplace wellbeing including leadership, mental health, absence management, physical activity and healthy eating.
- ACEI member firm DBFL Consulting Engineers recently celebrated being awarded Best Workplace in the TFI [Cycle into Summer](#) challenge. During June, seven teams from DBFL participated in the event.
- A new rail service including transport to Dublin Airport has been announced by the Minister for Transport. Cabinet agreement has been secured to develop the transformative [MetroLink](#) project which will be fully automated, the first of its kind in Ireland. The line will be 19.4 km, with 16 mostly underground stations connecting the North and South city.

Ethos Engineering Living Lab

ACEI member firm Ethos Engineering has developed a 'Living Lab' which arose from an idea generated within the Ethos innovation programme. Ethos has deployed an internet of things (IOT) platform and a raft of connected sensors throughout its offices in Dublin. This initiative allows the Ethos engineering teams to get "hands on" with every element of smart building technology in a live environment and use it as a test bed and learning centre, hence the "Ethos Living Lab." The Living Lab gives Ethos and its clients up-to-date practical insights into smart digital buildings, sustainability, and wellness. Brian Coogan, Director of Ethos Digital, says that *"the power of data is limitless in solving modern issues in the built environment. The Living Lab allows us to bring that power to our clients who are looking to optimise their buildings for not only employee productivity and welfare, but also with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals in mind."*

The Living Lab facilitates very precise monitoring of the building, with constant data collection in real time. This is presented to users through an app that allows them to adjust the operating systems to ensure buildings are optimised for the prevailing conditions. Ethos Living Lab enables the firm to develop solutions that are proven to address the challenges its staff and clients are encountering as they strive to deliver healthier, more productive, more environmentally friendly and more adaptable working conditions.

Congratulations from ACEI to all involved in Ethos on this innovative development, leading to the firm being shortlisted in two categories in the [Digital Construction Awards 2022](#).