

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 13 October 2022

Information and Advice for ACEI Members



ACEI President's Mid-Term Message

As this is ACEI's 50th Edition of the ConsultA newsletter, and my second member address as President, I thought it would be good to reflect on the road travelled since the first edition was circulated to members on 19 March 2020. That publication focused mainly on COVID-19 matters, in particular regard to providing assistance to member firms. Included in every newsletter are weblinks to EFCA and FIDIC along with links to Irish government and agency webpages. As well as advice and information for members to assist in the management of the pandemic, some good news and self-help / wellness features have also been included in each edition. The ConsultA 'Good News' section now mainly focuses on activities and achievements of member firms. Any suggestions for this segment, or other content, are welcome to info@acei.ie.

It is vitally important that we celebrate the successes of our profession and in particular the benefits that consulting engineers bring to society in general. Too often I see negative headlines published, where if you dig a little deeper there is real progress being made and many achievements delivered. This is one of the fundamental challenges that the industry and in particular your Executive Board are trying to address with the "Bridging the Gap" initiative.

It is difficult to believe that I have now been in the office of President for a full six months. During that time I have had the privilege to represent the Association at both the EFCA, General Assembly Meeting (GAM) in Paris in June and the FIDIC, Global Infrastructure Conference and GAM in Geneva, last month. It is somewhat comforting that many of the issues that we as Irish consultants deal with daily are the same throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Our own Secretary General, Sarah Ingle, took part in a panel discussion on Human Capital Resources on the second day of the FIDIC Conference and her insights were very well received by the audience.

The FIDIC conference ended with the first woman in 110 years, Canadian [Catherine Karakatsanis](#), being appointed President-elect. And it is great to note as well that the EFCA President-elect is also a woman, [Inés Ferguson](#) of Techniberia, the Spanish consulting engineering association, again the first in this role for the federation.

In early September, I was delighted that ACEI's first past-President, David McHugh, hosted our 2022 Excellence Awards Dinner. A full house of over 340 members and guests attended to see 13 major awards being presented to the winning member firms. The amount of conversation and buzz in the room reminded everyone of what we have missed over the last two pandemic years. The awards event was followed up by a two-page feature on the winning projects in the Business Post of 25 September.

The work of the ACEI member volunteers on Executive and its sub-committees is never ending and we have a packed agenda for the next number of months, with particular emphasis on implementing Bridging the Gap priorities. We are also continuing our stakeholder engagement with meetings scheduled with Cork City Council, daa, Irish Water and Galway City Council in the next few weeks. As always, members are encouraged to provide any feedback we should bring to public sector clients, your views are appreciated and welcome.

Brian Kavanagh
ACEI President 2022-2023

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](#)

EFCA Future Trends Report 2022

The [EFCA Future Trends Report 2022](#) was published this week with a theme of: Seizing opportunities in times of disruption. The authors believe that the three core drivers of digitisation, harmonisation, and sustainability will impact the entire industry, presenting both challenges and opportunities for incumbent engineering consultants.

EFCA's Future Trends Committee in collaboration with the Centre for Strategy and Scenario Planning at HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management in Germany, has built on last year's report by interviewing 20 executives and high-level experts of leading European engineering companies and other industry related organisations. The report explores how the three drivers might impact the industry and which strategic options engineering consultants will have to navigate in an increasingly disrupted world. Members are encouraged to carefully read this insightful report.

FIDIC Annual Report 2021 / 2022

FIDIC has recently published its [Annual Report 2021/2022](#). The report provides a detailed overview on FIDIC's work over the past year. It includes messages from FIDIC president Tony Barry, CEO Dr Nelson Ogunshakin and all the committee chairs. This year's publication also provides updates on the new Global Leadership Forum, the FIDIC Ambassadors programme and the FIDIC Academy update as well as regional and other reports. FIDIC's annual report is well worth a review and ACEI members will find it interesting and informative.

FIDIC CEO Update

In the October 2022 [FIDIC CEO Update](#), Nelson Ogunshakin reports on the successful in-person FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference held last month in Geneva as well as other activities and events. At the Annual General Meeting two new Board members were elected along with President-elect Catherine Karakatsanis from Canada, Chief Operating Officer at Morrison Hershfield Group, a leading North American diversified consulting engineering and management firm. ACEI welcomes Catherine's election as the first woman in this role in FIDIC's history.

RIA Conference Next Generation Construction

Members are invited to register for a Royal Irish Academy conference on [Next Generation Construction](#) on 24 November. The event will address how the sector must continue to evolve through the adoption of new methods of construction; the digitisation of the construction process from beginning to end; and with an increased emphasis on research and development.

Construction Safety Week 2022

This year's [CIF Construction safety week](#) is extended to take place over the full month of October. ACEI members are encouraged to promote the activities being planned as well as organise their own safety events.

Recent Good News

- **Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited** was pleased to support [DIY SOS: The Big Build Ireland](#) with its final build of the year in Sligo. The Jennings O'Donovan Building and Infrastructure Department, led by Mark Forbes, provided civil and structural design services for the project.
- Congratulations to the **Roughan & O'Donovan** team that won the recent Sandyford Business District [Spirit Sandyford 5k](#). Roughan & O'Donovan has finished in the top three companies in the event almost every year since it began, well done to all concerned.
- ACEI congratulates **Ethos Engineering** which was recently named Best Organisation to Work for at the [Irish Building and Design Awards](#).
- **TOBIN Consulting Engineers** was pleased to be appointed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to function as the Litter Monitoring Body (LMB) from July 2021 to June 2022. This work continues the development of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (NLPMS), which was established in 1999, and co-ordinates the associated Local Authority implementation. The system provides vital information to DECC on national litter pollution, [the 2021 NLPMS](#) results were recently published.
- Congratulations to Colm Healy, a graduate from the **RPS** Transport Infrastructure team based in Galway. Colm has won the Digital Infrastructure Design Award at [Worldskills Ireland 2022](#), which took place in the RDS in September. Worldskills Ireland is a partnership between enterprise, industry, education, training, and government that prepares the talent of today for the careers of the future.

World Mental Health Month 2022

October is World Mental Health month where people are being encouraged to make their mental wellbeing a top priority. [Mental Health Ireland \(MHI\)](#) suggests many ways to get involved to support individuals, firms and communities. MHI was founded in 1966, its mission is to promote and enhance mental health and wellbeing and to create a culture where all are respected and supported, especially when mental health challenges occur.

The [World Health Organization](#) highlights the vital nature of support networks on a global scale and the greater need for affordable, accessible wellbeing services. Opening up to others, carving out time for relaxation or spending time in nature are some of the ways people are choosing to look after their mental wellbeing. Mental Health UK suggests as part of a [Wellbeing Work Plan](#) to incorporate a wellbeing "power hour" into the working day in which teams can share activities they find helpful for their mental health.