

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 25 November 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 any queries.

### 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 Office Update

Following the announcement of the revised Government guidelines, the ACEI office in 46 Merrion Square has closed again from 19 November 2021 until further notice. To make contact with the Secretariat email Louise at [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie) or Toni at [projects@acei.ie](mailto:projects@acei.ie). We hope that all members are keeping safe and well at this difficult time.

### ACEI Members Register for Pledge to Net Zero

Following a successful webinar on 9 November, ACEI members have begun to register for, and commit to, the [Pledge to Net Zero](#) science-based targets. The association is pleased to be a leader in the sector and supporting member firms to undertake the international Pledge to Net Zero initiative. 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 is a clear way for member firms to show leadership in this area.

For further information about how to start your firm's Pledge to Net Zero journey, visit the dedicated page on the [ACEI website](#). For any comments or questions about the pledge email: [netzero@acei.ie](mailto:netzero@acei.ie).

### FIDIC Climate Change Charter

A newly developed [Climate Change Charter](#) represents a major call to action by FIDIC, the global consulting engineering industry body representing over 40,000 companies and over one million professional engineers and consultants around the world.

In the charter FIDIC considers *"infrastructure to include both hard and social elements, this means that sectors are covered from energy and transport through to hospitals and schools. We consider this to be important as it considers the extent to which engineers can help to drive reductions in emissions across the widest part of society and day-to-day lives."*

During Cop26, FIDIC outlined its leadership response on behalf of the consulting engineering community due to the urgency of the climate crisis and the scale of the changes required. The charter sets out in basic terms, the federation's views on how to address climate mitigation and subsequent adaptation and resilience of the built environment in the coming months, years and decades.

### Events, Training and Advice Notes

Members are reminded to keep an eye on the [ACEI website](#) where information on upcoming events and training is kept updated. All of the recent advice notes provided to members are also now included in the [Resources](#) section of the site.

## EFCA Launches Future Scenarios Report

The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) recently launched a report aimed at business leaders in consulting engineering facing critical decisions in their firms. This document sets out a direction in difficult times that begins with identifying a variety of scenarios for the future. The report outlines and describes four such scenarios for the consulting engineering industry, based on 'critical uncertainties'.

Professor Torsten Wulf of the [HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management's Center for Strategy and Scenario Planning](#), was a key advisor to the EFCA Future Trends Committee assigned to develop the report. ACEI members are encouraged to closely review the [EFCA Future Scenarios Report 2021](#).

## EFCA Barometer Indicates Industry Surge

The [Autumn 2021 EFCA Barometer](#) indicates that the expected recovery in the sector has materialised. Staff numbers have markedly increased as well as order stock, turnover and profitability. Currently the biggest challenge for the consulting engineering industry in Europe is a staff shortage.

EFCA continues to strongly advocate on increased and targeted investments in decarbonising the built environment. The engineering consulting industry has a major role in delivering on Europe's ambitious climate change targets.

## FIDIC Future Leaders Seek Members

The FIDIC Future Leaders Council (FLC) is seeking expressions of interest in becoming a council member from professionals under age 40 in member firms. The FLC, formerly Young Professionals Forum (YPF), was established in 2004 with a strategic plan setting out its vision, mission, and values. As a leadership Council, the new FLC was set up to develop communication and networking opportunities for all Future Leaders involved in the FIDIC community. ACEI would be pleased to provide a letter of endorsement for RConSEI members and to answer any queries. For further details and to register your interest by 1 December, see [here](#).

## Five Types of Life Mentors Needed

According to Anthony Tjan, there are [five types of mentors](#) needed in life. In an article by Julia Fawal, Tjan says that "the best mentors can help us define and express our inner calling, but rarely can one person give you everything you need to grow."

## Recent Good News

- ACEI member firm Fehily Timoney proudly sponsors the annual Lord Mayor's Perpetual Trophy to recognise academic excellence at the School of Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences at University College Cork. This week the trophy was presented virtually to Laura O'Donovan by Sinéad Timoney, Chief Operating Officer at Fehily Timoney, who praised Laura's research and her project entitled: 'An investigation into the spatial patterns of noise pollution and its relationship with deprivation across Co Cork, Ireland'.
- ACEI member firm Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions (GDG) is delighted to share the news of its [recent acquisition](#) by the Venterra Group, an exciting new venture exploring synergies for the offshore wind sector.
- DPER Minister Michael McGrath TD, has awarded funding to the [Build Digital Alliance](#), led by TU Dublin and CitA. The winning consortium sets out plans to gather momentum in digital adoption to advance the built environment and construction sectors in Ireland.
- Call 4 of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund ([DTIF](#)) was recently launched by Tánaiste Leo Varadkar. The aim of the fund is to encourage collaborations between industry and the research sector to develop and commercialise ground-breaking and disruptive technologies. The minimum funding request is €1.5 million for projects of up to three years' duration. It is hoped that several applications from the built environment sector will be developed.
- A [Jobs Plus](#) grant has been made available to employers by the Department of Social Protection. This grant provides an incentive for employers to recruit full time employees from the live register. The Jobs Plus Grant is open to employers in the private, community, not for profit and voluntary sectors.
- IT Sligo, GMIT and LYIT have welcomed the recent announcement by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD, that together they have been approved for designation as a [Technological University \(TU\)](#). The new Atlantic Technological University (ATU) will offer almost 600 academic programmes from pre-degree to doctoral level to a population of more than 20,000 students supported by over 2,200 staff.