

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 7 June 2023**

## Information and Advice for ACEI Members



### **New ACEI Secretary General Appointed**

Dear ACEI Members,

I was honoured to be appointed as your Secretary General and I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

I hope to continue the excellent work of my predecessor, Dr Sarah Ingle. I will work tirelessly along with you, members of the Executive Board and our committees to build a positive environment for your companies and the sector.

Our central focus will be the implementation of the ACEI's 'Bridging the Gap' strategy. This strategy aims at promoting consulting engineering as the critical sector in the delivery of the infrastructure Ireland requires to drive economic and social progress over the next generation. This will help build positive relationships with policy makers and shape a positive business environment for our members.

In addition, promoting the sector as a destination for talent is important to building a sustainable sector. Showing the general public - parents, young people, and educators amongst others - how consulting engineering is helping Ireland solve our housing, infrastructure and climate change crises for future generations is really important.

Finally, I want the ACEI to maintain and grow its prominent position as a professional representative body. With this in mind, the Executive Board and I want to recruit as many of those operating in our sector into membership. With a wider membership base, we have a stronger voice when we engage with Government and officials.

In the coming weeks, I hope to talk to as many of you as possible to get a view of your businesses and the challenges you face. Feel free to reach out to me [shane.dempsey@acei.ie](mailto:shane.dempsey@acei.ie) at any point to discuss.

### **Spring 2023 EFCA Industry Barometer report**

The latest Industry Barometer from the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) shows that the past 6 months have been remarkably busy for the consultancy and engineering industry in Europe.

Order books are noticeably reduced but remain at higher-than-normal levels. The market index is decelerating from the 2021 peak level. This means that there is still a strong state of business in the consultancy and engineering industry in Europe.

The largest challenges for the consultancy and engineering industry in Europe are the shortage of staff, low fees and salary increases. Geopolitics, energy transformation, rising inflation and interest rates are continuing factors contributing to uncertainty - and opportunities - in market developments of the future. The full report is available [here](#).

### **Build Digital Project workshop on 16 June**

On behalf of Pat Lucey, the CIF are facilitating a workshop for the Build Digital Project "Recalibrate the Build Digital Project" on Friday 16th June. ACEI as a CIC stakeholder has together with 5 other industry stakeholders nominated 10 representatives from each of the organisations to attend this event.

The Build Digital Project has been in existence for 18 months and the aim of the workshop is to re-establish the programme of work and objectives of the Build Digital Project. The workshop will provide an opportunity for industry representatives to inform the Build Digital Project Team exactly what digital transformation looks like to their business, for their supply chain and as a result what they want to see them deliver in their 5-year plan.

### **Building Regulations Part M CPD Event**

The NBC & MSO invite you to the CPD Event on "Building Regulations Part M" at 9:00 on Tuesday the 20th of June. The full feature can be seen on the [ACEI website](#).

### **ACEI Contact Details**

You can contact the Secretariat by visiting us in person, calling us at 01-6425588, connecting us on our [LinkedIn page](#) or emailing us at [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie).

### **News Updates**

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
- [FIDIC](#)

## ACEI's Vision of Sustainability

ACEI's new President James Kavanagh has [a piece](#) in the May/June issue of Building Services Engineering magazine outlined how ACEI is fully committed to its Sustainability Vision.

## Diversity and Inclusion in Engineering

An EFCA [article](#) on women in engineering in Ireland and the EU, has recently been published.

## Over 100,000 new building workers needed in 2023

In a recent [Business Post feature](#), a Government report says 51,000 new construction workers would be needed to deliver residential housing and retrofitting targets alone. Ireland is likely to need more than 100,000 new construction sector workers by the end of the decade to deliver housing, retrofitting and infrastructure targets. This highlights the need for Government to work with industry on skills shortages and the ongoing disconnect between Government's housing targets, NDP delivery and their own skills requirement forecasts.

## NBCO Warn of Severe Staff Shortages

NBCO have warned of a severe staff shortage without any meaningful response from the government. In a recent [article](#) the resource challenges in NBCO makes the submission from the December workshop very timely.

## 7th Edition of FIDIC's Future Leaders Booklet

The FIDIC Future Leaders Advisory Council (FLAC) invites [submissions](#) of papers for a special edition of the annual FIDIC Future Leaders Booklet, as it celebrates the 110th anniversary of FIDIC. The booklet will be released at the Global Infrastructure Conference 2023, which this year has as its central theme, *"Infrastructure – there's no time to lose: Sustainable global (and local) strategies to build a better world"*.



## EFCA Engineering Europe Newsletter

The EFCA newsletter, [Engineering Europe](#), for June has been published. Inés Ferguson, Director of Business Development at TYPSA, officially assumed the presidency of EFCA, succeeding Benoît Clocheret, CEO at Artelia.

Benoît effectively steered the organisation through the trials of the Covid pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, the energy crisis and inflation.

Other features include: Promoting Resilience and Collaboration in Engineering EFCA International Conference 2023, Deputy Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine Azarkhina speaks at the conference and Future Leaders' Award.

## Cork City Council Webinar

ACEI was delighted to collaborate with Cork City Council for May's joint webinar as part of our "Engaging with Clients" strategy. Many thanks to Cork City Council CEO Ann Doherty and her Director of Services colleagues Fearghal Reidy and Gerry O'Beirne who gave excellent presentations to our member firms on their exciting plans for the southern capital. ACEI member firms look forward to using their extensive expertise to support Cork City Council in delivering their vision for Cork.

## Recent Good News

- Patrick Kavanagh, **Building Design Partnership (BDP)** has been awarded the first runner-up of this year's [EFCA Future Leader Awards](#).
- Michael Minehane, **RPS**, received an Honorary Mention in recognition of his outstanding performance in the Future Leaders competition at EFCA's International Conference 2023 in Rome.

## Upcoming ACEI Health & Safety courses

There are some remaining places on the upcoming [Project Supervisor Design Process \(PSDP\)](#) – taking place online on 14 and 21 June 2023.

[Bookings](#) are open for the upcoming DSC/PSDP Refresher course – taking place online on 27 June 2023. The course is directed towards engineers to provide refreshed, practical guidance for designers on how to comply with their duties under the Safety Health & Welfare at Work legislation and for those who fulfill the role of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013. It is required that participants have completed the ACEI / Engineers Ireland "Designing for Safety in Construction" (DSC) course OR Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) course.

## DPHLG industry stakeholder event 21 June

The CIC and CIF are coordinating a HYBRID meeting on 21 June to advance the development of a suitable programme of actions and associated implementation plan to plug the competency gap as identified in recommendation 7 of the Report of the Expert Panel on Concrete Blocks, each CIC representative body is to nominate one person to attend this meeting and it is expected that ACEI will have a nominee to attend on our behalf.

Reference document is the [Report of the Expert Panel on Concrete Blocks](#) from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## Introduction of NCCs in Construction Contracts

In March, the Construction Industry Council sent a Senior Counsel legal opinion on the 'Introduction of Net Contribution Clauses in Construction Contracts'. The Council (CIC) is a body comprised of all the representative groups within the construction industry and the ACEI currently has the chair.

The construction industry is unified in the view that the introduction of NCCs in Government contracts is essential if we are to solving the housing, infrastructure and climate change challenges Ireland faces.

This has led to a crisis in PII in Ireland particularly in regard to fire safety cover with many providers leaving the market.

The CIC believes that the solution to this situation is the introduction of NCCs into Government contracts. These would give confidence that any costs for an issue will be proportionate rather than the existing "1 per cent rule" whereby a wrongdoer with 1% responsibility for a loss may be required to pay 100% of the damages.

Minister Pascal Donohoe and his officials responded to this submission outlining six reasons why NCCs cannot be introduced. The CIC has agreed to seek a meeting with the Minister and officials to further the case for NCCs.