

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 30 April 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

Covid-19 Updates

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

Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government](#)
- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

ACEI Working Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed while the Secretariat is working remotely. Calls are being diverted and email is monitored at info@acei.ie. ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle also welcomes member feedback and queries to sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

ACEI Communications and Website

The [ACEI Website](#) continues to be updated with current information from government and others. The latest uploads include a feature on the Office of Government Procurement's (OGP) Spring 2020 newsletter. Included in this are updates on new policy guidance on the public procurement implications of Covid-19 for goods, services and works.

CIC Joint Statement from Industry Bodies

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) has developed a [joint statement to members](#) on behalf of its constituent bodies: ACEI, BMF, CIF, IEI, SCSi and RIAI. The statement commends and thanks individual members and firms for their proactive and collaborative response to the current crisis. ACEI is an active member of the CIC and is represented at meetings and other fora by the Secretary General, President and Past President.

ArcDox BIM Coordinator Mentor Programme

ArcDox is providing a free ten hour [BIM Mentor Programme](#) to help upskill people in the areas of BIM Coordination, management and digital design. The only commitment required from participants is to attend a one hour online meeting each day, for 10 days, between 1pm-2pm. The programme takes place during 11 - 22 May 2020.

Free €2500 Business Continuity Voucher

ACEI encourages member firms, employing up to 50 staff, to apply for a free €2500 voucher provided by the European Commission. The voucher can be used to obtain advice on developing strategies to deal with the current crisis, and provide contingency planning information to help firms continue trading. Management consultant, [CG Business Consulting](#) can assist with applications. It is an approved third-party provider with LEOs and Enterprise Ireland. Apply by mid-May 2020.

Minister of Finance Responds to CIC Letter

The Minister of Finance has [responded positively](#) to the Construction Industry Council's (CIC) letter sent earlier this month. It is welcome to note his view that *"the Government is mindful that a sustainable and flexible construction sector is crucial to the delivery of Project Ireland 2040 and the continued contribution of public investment to our economic well-being."*

DPER View on Economic Challenges

Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) Robert Watt, made a presentation, [COVID-19: Economic Response to Date](#), to the Institute of International and European Affairs recently via video conference. Economic challenges and associated policy implications were addressed.

Irish Academy of Engineering Parsons Medal

The Irish Academy of Engineering (IAE) awards an annual *Parsons Medal* to engineers or engineering scientists of exceptional ability in research or engineering technology. It is Ireland's premier such award, commemorating the exceptional achievements of [Sir Charles Parsons](#) the great 19th Century Irish Engineer. [Applications](#) are now being accepted, deadline 15 May 2020.

Highlights of a Year in Infrastructure

Some of the globe's most outstanding infrastructure projects are available to view in the [2019 Infrastructure Yearbook](#). Winning projects from all over the world are showcased in the annual awards features and significant digital and other infrastructural innovations are highlighted.

Digitalisation Differences

In the built environment sector, digital technology has become increasingly utilised in all aspects of the industry and the current crisis is demonstrating the increasing importance of digitalisation for the sector. A recent European Investment Bank ([EIBIS](#)) [survey](#) analyses the differences in technological adoption between EU and US firms, and provides evidence of an improved performance for 'digital' firms.

National Workplace Wellbeing Day

The National [Workplace Wellbeing Day](#) is being hosted by IBEC this week on 1 May 2020. Employers are encouraged to assist their staff in coping with the physical and mental wellbeing challenges that arise while working remotely during a crisis. Firms can sign up to include relevant activities and get suggestions from the [wellbeing day website](#).

Recent Good News

- The Monaghan based firm, Combilift, has developed a [new ventilator splitter](#) that can treat up to six people at a time. Produced on a not-for-profit basis, it is due for export soon to developing countries.
- LEO Dublin City is running a series of [free online workshops](#) to help firms cope with current challenges in a number of areas including cashflow, online selling and social media marketing.
- The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) has developed a list of [Covid-19 words and phrases](#) explained in simple terms.
- Dublin City Council's plan to '[make wild](#)' a number of parks and verges around the city is starting to flourish, resulting in sustainable developments for the public to enjoy
- To assist in making virtual presentations, [Greg Ward](#), a FIDIC host has put together a video with tips and tricks for those hosting online seminars and events.
- A playlist of [calming music](#) is available to help to reduce stress and assist with meditation, relaxation and focus.

Imminent Launch of Irish Crisis Text Line

[Crisis Text Line](#) is a free 24-hour service that connects people in need with trained, volunteer crisis counsellors. This important project has plans to expand to four languages and is part of the [Audacious Project](#), TED's initiative to inspire and fund global change. [Irish volunteers](#) have already started to sign up to become involved and it will be launched in Ireland soon.