

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 21 May 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. To assist in the dissemination of ACEI news and other materials, members are encouraged to connect with and follow the ACEI on [LinkedIn](#).

ACEI Annual General Meeting

As already advised, the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place virtually at 12pm on Friday, 22 May. A 'Teams' invite has been provided to FConsEI and RConsEI members, and the agenda and other papers were emailed on 1 May 2020. All those available are welcome to attend to progress the governance and related business for the association.

Invitation to Complete an EU Joint Research Centre Survey

The European Commission's [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) is encouraging EU citizens to complete an [online survey](#) to determine how people in member states are reacting to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the associated response measures. The results of the survey will assist the JRC to provide "insights to policy-makers about the impact and consequences of Covid-19 on individuals in all EU member states, and to develop effective strategies to improve citizens' lives". The survey gathers data on: the impact of the coronavirus on EU citizens' employment and living conditions; trust in the ability of national and European institutions to respond to the crisis; and attitudes towards national exit strategies.

Focus on Green Infrastructure Supporting Recovery

In a recent article, one of [Fast Company's writers](#) suggests that the best way to create jobs might be to invest in 'green infrastructure'. The author quotes Devashree Saha, a senior associate at the nonprofit World Resources Institute (WRI). "Jobs in the low-carbon sector have been growing at a much faster pace than overall employment significant investment in clean energy and other low-carbon sectors as part of the economic recovery is a very effective way to create jobs in the near term." Initiatives that focus on sustainable activities including fossil fuel reduction, retrofitting homes and businesses, modernising electrical grids and investing in low carbon infrastructure will provide a lot of employment and help to reduce the overall effects of climate change.

CIF C-19 Induction Programme

In the first week of the re-opening of many building and infrastructure sites, the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) is requesting all of its members to complete the [C-19 Induction programme](#). This programme is designed to protect employees, families and communities while still permitting safe working procedures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Proof of having completed the C-19 induction will be required to enter sites, and many ACEI members are encouraging their employees in all departments to obtain the C-19 digital card.

DRSF Business Supports and Online Training

The Dublin Regional Skills Forum (DRSF) has developed a succinct guide to Irish business supports to assist firms during the crisis. A comprehensive summary of [online training programmes](#) is included in the document. A variety of topics are offered at different levels, many free of charge.

FIDIC Guidance Memo and Webinar Series

FIDIC's (International Federation of Consulting Engineers) Risk, Liability and Quality committee has developed a [guidance memorandum](#) for on-site working and project team organisation. The purpose of the memo is to assist member firms in FIDIC Member Associations (MAs) worldwide, to consider and address the many aspects of the current pandemic as they apply to their firm and their employees.

FIDIC is also continuing its well-received [Webinar Series](#) on a variety of topics relevant to consulting engineering firms during the crisis.

FIEC Covid-19 Updates

Established in 1905, the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) represents 31 national member federations in 27 countries (24 EU, 2 EFTA and Turkey). The member federations themselves represent construction firms of all sizes, including SMEs as well as multi-national organisations that undertake building, infrastructure and civil engineering activities. FIEC provides regular [Covid-19 updates](#) to support its members during the crisis.

Recent Good News

- Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) has published its first analysis of the [reduction in Ireland's pollution level](#) since the recent travel restrictions. A 50% decrease in automotive pollution has been identified.
- A *GoFundMe* initiative by a Galway restaurateur has helped deliver [10,000 meals](#) to front-line staff working at University Hospital Galway (UHG). Over €15,000 was donated to provide lunches for the health care workers.
- A new product, [Shoe Pull](#), has been designed to help minimise the transfer of Covid-19 and other germs on door handles. *Shoe Pull* allows doors to be opened using feet. During the coming year the manufacturer is donating 20% of profits to charity.
- Several free [employment law and HR webinars](#) are being provided by Legal Island during 2020. One planned for 2 June, addresses HR challenges that may arise during the re-opening of offices and workplaces.
- *LinkedIn* is providing [free training courses](#) to assist leaders in communicating clearly as well as influencing positive change in times of crisis.

How to Tame your Inner Advice Monster

We've all been there, a friend or colleague shares a problem and we're instantly offering solutions, often without taking the time to listen or ask questions. In a post from a recent TED ["How to Be a Better Human"](#) series, a guest author examines the '[advice monster](#)' in our heads and suggests some simple ways of replacing an advice-giving habit with a new habit, including staying curious.

Rethinking Open Office Floorplans

A National Geographic article on [rethinking open office](#) spaces in the workplace resonates with the Phase 1 remobilisation of some workers taking place this week in Ireland. Some experts believe open floor plans could be remodelled with increased consideration for personal space and improved cleaning schedules. Others, however, consider that the pandemic is the final straw for the open office.