

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 11 June 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

Covid-19 Updates

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Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
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- [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 National Building Control Office (NBCO) quarterly [newsletter](#). To assist in the dissemination of ACEI news and other materials, members are encouraged to connect with and follow the ACEI on [LinkedIn](#).

ACEI Member Firm Employee Success in European Award

Many congratulations to Marie-Claire Daly, PUNCH Consulting Engineers, on achieving the [Runner-Up Award](#) in the 2020 European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations' (EFCA) 2020 Future Leaders Award. Marie-Claire's success was announced at the recent, online EFCA Annual General Meeting, attended by 80 participants from all over Europe. The standard of applications was very high this year, making Marie-Claire's achievement even more significant.

EFCA Updates: New President and Spring Barometer Results

The latest edition of the [Voice of EFCA](#) is now available. The main article is an interview with new EFCA President Benoît Clocheret on the current market situation. In the President's Corner, outgoing President Kevin Rudden, CEO of Garland, provides his views on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ACEI congratulates Benoît on his election as President and commends Kevin on his huge efforts and commitment to EFCA as President 2017-2020. A highlight for ACEI during Kevin's term of office was the association hosting the 2019 EFCA AGM and Conference in Dublin, including a record attendance.

The EFCA 2020 Spring [Industry Barometer](#) is now available for review. The findings indicate that for the first half of 2020, consulting engineering business across Europe was significantly reduced. The crisis impacted many areas including hiring policies, order stock, turnover and profitability. The biggest challenge at the moment is a much reduced new project workload.

Return to Work Safely Protocol

ACEI welcomes the recently published government [Return to Work Safely Protocol](#) providing guidance on a framework on which to build return to work planning. The Protocol's design allows for the introduction of further sector, industry or company specific initiatives. It is hoped that the Protocol will provide confidence to employers and employees that the safety and well-being of people at work can be securely managed as Ireland's economy begins to re-open.

IGBC and LIT Launch Energy Upskilling App

Last week the Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) and Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) launched a new app to facilitate energy renovation upskilling. The BUILD UP Skills Advisor app, developed with support from SEAI, facilitates built environment professionals and construction workers to identify energy renovation training courses that suit their needs. The app is free on Google Play and App Store.

SEAI Awards Deadline Reminder

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is still accepting entries for the 2020 [SEAI Energy Awards](#). The awards recognise and reward excellence in all aspects of energy efficiency and renewable energy. They continuously showcase the organisations, communities and individuals who are leading in smart energy solutions and practices. The deadline for applications is 19 June 2020.

EU Public Consultation on Green Deal

The [European Green Deal](#) outlines how Europe can become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The Commission is currently gathering feedback on this from a wide range of stakeholders including individual citizens as well as from organisations. Contributions are welcome via an [online survey](#). The deadline to respond is 17 June 2020.

Review of Office Buildings Design

According to a recent [Savills Ireland report](#), as a result of the coronavirus, the long-term design and specification of office buildings are being reviewed by landlords and their tenants. A number of factors are under consideration in relation to the pandemic being prolonged, including: sanitation, lift capacity, social distancing and air conditioning.

Recent Good News

- The 2nd edition of the [Low Carbon Pledge Report](#) from Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) was published on 5 June. The *Low Carbon Pledge* is a commitment from Irish firms, including ACEI member firm Arup, to invest resources into the development of more sustainable operations
- A [webinar recording](#) has been made available on re-imagining cities and towns for mobility and public space in times of Covid-19. The webinar was recorded on 28 May, and facilitated by Dr Lorraine D'Arcy from the School of Civil & Structural Engineering, Technological University Dublin.
- The authorities in Paris have partnered with JCDecaux to provide [hand sanitiser dispensers](#) on the walls of 1,500 bus stations and 435 public toilets across the city. Each dispenser includes approximately 3,300 sanitiser applications.

Interoperability in Structural Engineering

A recent article on [Cadalyt](#) outlines the importance of interoperability in structural engineering. It is noted in the article that: *'If data types and software products are not interoperable, software tools and engineering data become part of the problem instead of the solution.'*

Importance of Fostering Laughter for Health

An article from the Harvard Business Review outlines the [importance of fostering laughter](#) in employees during these difficult times so that they stay healthy and productive. Five concrete steps are suggested for managers during online meetings including: Slowing down interactions; Encouraging the use of video; Smiling and setting a lighter tone; Setting an example; Getting in the laughter mode in advance.

The author notes that: *'The overall health benefits of laughter, and the neurochemicals involved, include improved immune functioning, stress relief, increased tolerance for pain, improved cardiovascular health, reduced anxiety, sense of safety, and improved mood. Laughter is also associated with higher motivation and productivity at work.'*