

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 25 June 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. To assist in the dissemination of ACEI news and other materials, members are encouraged to connect with and follow the ACEI on [LinkedIn](#).

ACEI Covid-19 Advice Note for PSDP and Designers

ACEI is pleased to provide a member [Advice Note for PSDP and Designers](#) in the current environment. The welcome advice note was developed by the Health and Safety Committee under the leadership of convenor Kevin Rudden, and includes the view of the Health & Safety Authority (HSA). Helpful links to related documents and information are provided in the note.

International Women in Engineering Day

On Tuesday 23 June 2020, [International Women in Engineering Day](#) (INWED) was celebrated. The theme of INWED this year was *Shape the World*, and many activities worldwide highlighted the contribution of women to engineering design and work on building and infrastructure projects on a global scale. On the [ACEI Website](#) the contributions of Anne Marie Conibear of J.B.Barry, and Susan Cormican of Ethos Engineering on the Executive Board are promoted. Also featured are the positive engineering experiences of Cara Roughan, from member firm Jennings O'Donovan.

In a related article from [Griffiths & Armour](#), Irish student Helen Skeffington Kelly winner of a recent G&A bursary, outlines the reason for her choice of engineering at third level and what the bursary has meant to her. Helen highlights in particular the positive experience of a summer internship with ACEI member firm, Barrett Mahony Consulting Engineers.

OGP Note: Reopening the Economy – Public Works Contracts

A new Office of Government Procurement ([OGP](#)) Note was published on 24 June. The purpose of the new note is to provide guidance to employers that are currently a party to a standard form of Public Works Contract (PWC), regarding contractors' implementation of protocol measures on construction sites. A template document formalising the agreement described in this note will be published next week.

Border Enterprise Development Fund Success

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) recently announced that 11 projects in the North East and North West of the country are to receive a combined €17 million from the [Border Enterprise Development Fund 2020](#) to assist in their development. Four of the projects will be based in Louth, two in Monaghan, two in Donegal, one in Cavan, one in Sligo and one in Leitrim. Among those selected is the establishment of an advanced manufacturing and technology training centre in Dundalk, Co. Louth and a project in Donegal which aims to accelerate the uptake of disruptive technology solutions by SMEs. The funding will be administered by Enterprise Ireland.

Minister Heather Humphreys notes: *"This is the first time that my Department has provided targeted, ring-fenced funding to a specific region, which represents a strong statement of our commitment to the Border area. Through this fund, I want to make businesses in the border region more resilient, more innovative and more competitive so that we can stimulate enhanced economic activity in the region."*

New EU Criteria for Sustainable Investments

The European Parliament has recently adopted new criteria for [sustainable investments](#). The associated legislation sets out six environmental objectives which allow economic activity to be labelled as environmentally sustainable, if it contributes to at least one of the objectives without significantly harming any of the others.

AT A GLANCE

The EU Taxonomy is a tool to help investors, companies, issuers and project promoters navigate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient economy.

The Taxonomy sets performance thresholds (referred to as 'technical screening criteria') for economic activities which:

- make a substantive contribution to one of six environmental objectives (Figures 1);
- do no significant harm (DNSH) to the other five, where relevant;
- meet minimum safeguards (e.g., OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights).

The performance thresholds will help companies, project promoters and issuers access green financing to improve their environmental performance, as well as helping to identify which activities are already environmentally friendly. In doing so, it will help to grow low-carbon sectors and decarbonise high-carbon ones.

The EU Taxonomy is one of the most significant developments in sustainable finance and will have wide ranging implications for investors and issuers working in the EU, and beyond.



Recent Good News

- The European Commission is proposing a major recovery plan for Europe using the full potential of the EU budget. [Next Generation EU](#) is an ambitious answer to Europe's needs for a recovery plan focused on a green, digital and resilient future.
- A new way of visualising the [EU's Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) has been developed. For the first time it includes data for the 27 member states. The various visualisation tools, available for each of the 17 goals, facilitate inter-country comparisons.
- Arup has published a paper on the [future of offices in a post-pandemic world](#). The article notes that Covid-19 has accelerated pre-existing trends in the commercial property sector including health and wellbeing and activity-based working.
- A recent article from McKinsey provides insights into how construction firms and others working in the built environment can emerge [stronger after the pandemic](#). Included in the piece are seven steps firms can take to move on after the current crisis. These include: accelerating digitalisation; investing in new skills; fortifying supply-chain resilience and getting closer to customers and clients.

Dublin Economic Monitor

The [Dublin Economic Monitor](#) is a combined initiative by the four Dublin local authorities, set up to review and track developments in the economy of the city. The monitor is co-ordinated by Dublin City Council and indicates the importance of the increased role for local authorities in the areas of economic development and enterprise support.

The purpose of the monitor is to address the absence of regular updates on trends in the economy of the Dublin Region and a key objective is to publish regular data to increase economic understanding of the region. The [latest edition of the monitor](#) was published on 28 May 2020.