

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 2 July 2020**

## Information and Advice for ACEI Members

### ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie) with queries or contact [sarah.ingle@acei.ie](mailto:sarah.ingle@acei.ie).

### Covid-19 Updates

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

### Online Resources

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

### ACEI / Irish Water Connections Workshop

Places are still available on the [ACEI / Irish Water Connections workshop](#) taking place 10.30am - 1.00pm on 23 July. Email [CDStraining@water.ie](mailto:CDStraining@water.ie) by 10 July to register your interest and provide your name and your firm.

Topics to be covered will include:

1. High level overview of the CDS processes – Pre Connection Enquiry, Connection Application & Diversions
2. Review of the Standard Details and Code of Practice
3. Outline frequently occurring issues in both Design and Field Quality Assurance (QA)
4. Q & A Session

### EFCA President Reviews Challenges and Opportunities during Crisis

In the June-July 2020 edition of [Construction Europe](#), EFCA President Benoît Clocheret addresses the [challenges and opportunities](#) for the consulting engineering consulting sector created by the [European Green Deal](#) and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Benoît notes in the article that most of the priorities outlined in the European Green Deal will need strong input from the engineering sector. *"Look at the main areas: Building Renovation, the Circular Economy, Zero Pollution, Energy, Mobility ... they all start with the need to design the infrastructure. This is our [consulting engineers] daily life and provides many opportunities for our trade; and a lot of responsibilities too ... We need to be as smart and as clever as we have ever been ... in a time of financial constraint."*

### How is the Pandemic Changing the Way We Make Cities?

A recent article in the e-magazine, [Direct INDUSTRY](#), addresses how the pandemic is changing the way we live and work in cities. Jamie Cudden, Dublin's Smart City Programme Manager, outlines in the feature how Dublin is coping with the coronavirus outbreak, noting that people now realise:

*"... the importance of real time data to assess the impact of lockdown and reopening and the changes in infrastructure investments. It has never been more important to have access to that data ... to make smart decisions, to know how we use public space, how we move people around the cities."*

## REHVA Updates HVAC Guidance for Covid-19

The Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Associations (REHVA) is an umbrella association representing more than 120,000 HVAC designers, building services engineers, technicians and experts across 27 European Countries.

In a response to the coronavirus pandemic, REHVA experts developed a guidance document on operating and using building services in areas with a Covid-19 outbreak to prevent the virus spreading as a result of HVAC or plumbing systems factors. [A recent update](#) includes the latest information and guidelines on: airborne transmission and implications to HVAC systems; ventilation continuous operation; SARS-CoV-2 stability data at different temperatures and relative humidity; heat recovery equipment and room level circulation units.

## Digital Economy and Society Index Update

In mid-June, the European Commission published the latest Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI). This index monitors Europe's digital performance and tracks the progress of EU countries in relation to their digital competitiveness. The [2020 DESI](#) indicates progress in all EU member states, as well as in key areas of measurement. These results are very important in the context of coronavirus, as digital technologies have facilitated monitoring the spread of the virus as well as assisting in research for cures and vaccines.

Welcoming the results, EU Executive Vice-President, Margrethe Vestager noted: *"The coronavirus crisis has demonstrated how crucial it is for citizens and businesses to be connected and to be able to interact with each other online. We will continue to work with Member States to identify areas where more investment is needed so that all Europeans can benefit from digital services and innovations."*

## How to Sit Better to Help your Back

A post from TED's ["How to Be a Better Human"](#) series, addresses the side effects of an incorrect ergonomic setup while working remotely. According to Esther Gokhale, posture expert and creator of the [Gokhale Method](#), *"You don't need anything fancy if you know what you're doing to your own body."* Gokhale notes the problem isn't with sitting itself, but how we're doing it. In an [informative TED post](#), she explains 'stretch-sitting' and other techniques to improve our working postures.

## Recent Good News

- The European Investment Bank (EIB) in partnership with the European Commission has pledged €4.9 billion to the [European Coronavirus Global Response](#) initiative. Another €11.9 billion has already been committed by EU Member States; €15.9 billion is the total amount raised so far. The funds will be used to develop, and ensure equitable access to, coronavirus vaccines, tests and treatments as well as support economic recovery in fragile regions and communities worldwide.
- Funding has been provided for a project in Technological University Dublin: COVID-19 (Space-Time) Scanning, Mobility and Intervention Diagnosis ([CO/SMID](#)). The project's aim is to track Covid-19 clusters based on geo-referenced data to more accurately predict future outbreaks and influence future interventions. The funding was awarded by a joint call from Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. These goals provided an enhanced impetus to global efforts in relation to achieving sustainable development. A recent new, [Eurostat report](#) includes an analysis of [SDG trends](#) in the EU over short-term and long-term timelines.
- A team of scientists led by Professors from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and Beaumont Hospital has started a clinical trial of a [potential treatment](#) for critically-ill Covid-19 patients. The treatment uses a protein, Alpha-1-antitrypsin, already produced by the liver. This protein when released into the bloodstream, normally acts to protect the lungs from common illnesses. A paper published by the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* describes this as the first "investigational medicine product trial to be approved in Ireland to test a therapy to treat Covid-19".