

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 19 March 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI continues to encourage members to access the updated materials and information on the [HSE](#) and the [Institute of Public Health](#) websites and also the [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)

Online Resources

- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre \(HPSC\)](#) The HPSC provides advice for the general public and for specific groups and settings, including employers, healthcare professionals, education settings and religious settings
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) provides travel advice.
- [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [The Health & Safety Authority](#)

ConsultA

Welcome to the first edition of the new ACEI Newsletter, *ConsultA*. *ConsultA* is a noun meaning an official meeting or consultation. This issue will mainly focus on matters relating to the coronavirus given the current situation. Suggestions for content and format of the newsletter are welcome.

Containment

The objective of Covid-19 containment is to minimise the spread of the illness. Decisive, proactive containment measures taken now can reduce negative impacts in the future. These measures include travel restrictions, remote working, replacing face to face meetings with virtual ones and cancelling events.

Contracts & Insurance

ACEI advises members to thoroughly review all contracts and where relevant notify clients. The type of notification will vary depending on the particular contract. It is also suggested to carefully check PII and other insurance policies to determine whether any action is required. Current advice, as of March 2020, on contracts and projects arising from Covid-19 issues is provided here for ACEI members by [Beale & Co.](#)

Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

The OGP has produced an [information note](#) which may be of interest. This is to support contracting authorities in managing procurements where urgency is required. There are Q&A at the end of this note addressing common questions with respect to procurement and Covid-19.

Support Services for Firms

The Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection and the Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation will provide a joint First Responder support service through the Intreo Offices and development agencies, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland in each region to provide tailored supports for impacted firms, with objective of avoiding mass lay-offs and buying time for firms to work through the disruptions. Firms that need to reduce hours or days worked can avail of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection Short Term Work Support by contacting their local [Intreo Office](#). The full range of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Local Enterprise Office and Údarás na Gaeltachta grant supports will be available to firms to help with strategies to innovate, diversify markets and supply chains and to improve competitiveness.

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI)

The DBEI is providing supports for firms impacted by Covid-19:

- A €200m Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) Working Capital scheme is available for eligible businesses. Loans of up to €1.5m will be available at reduced rates, with up to the first €500,000 unsecured. Applications can be made through the [SBCI website](#).
- A €200m Package for Enterprise Supports including a Rescue and Restructuring Scheme available through [Enterprise Ireland](#) for vulnerable but viable firms that need to restructure.
- The maximum loan available from MicroFinance Ireland (MFI) will be increased from €25,000 to €50,000 as an immediate measure to specifically deal with exceptional circumstances that that firms with up to nine employees are facing. Applications can be made through the [MFI Website](#) or through your [Local Enterprise Office \(LEO\)](#)
- [The Credit Guarantee Scheme](#) will be available to COVID-19 impacted firms through the Pillar Banks. Loans of up to €1m will be available at terms of up to seven years.

Learnings from a Performance Psychologist

As one of Ireland's leading performance psychologists who has worked with numerous companies and world-class sports teams, Caroline Currid gave the 2020 Pendulum Summit audience a 6-step guide each of them can apply to achieve their Highest Performance Potential. There are six fundamentals to help people achieve their own high performance milestones. But first, as Caroline states, ['You Must Define What Performance Looks Like For You'](#).

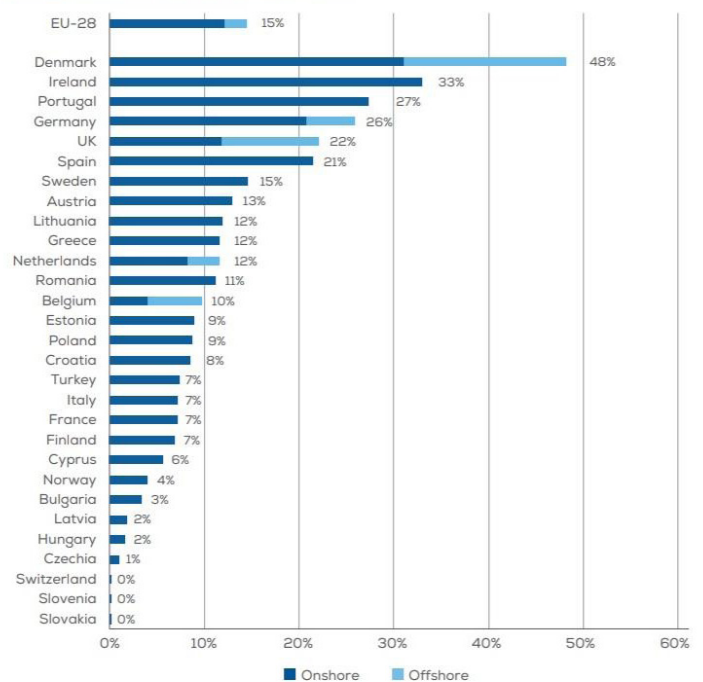
Recent Covid-19 Good News

- Over 82,760 people worldwide have successfully recovered from Covid-19
- The number of new cases in Italy is slowing.
- In mainland China, only 13 new cases were confirmed by officials on Tuesday 16 March and the country has closed down its last Covid-19 hospital.
- The world's youngest victim, a newborn baby, is recovering from the virus.
- Scientists in the Netherlands have reportedly found a coronavirus antibody which could lead to a vaccine and also allow people to test at home, freeing up struggling health services.
- Doctors at the Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur, India, have been using a combination of HIV, swine flu and Malaria medication to treat Covid-19 patients.
- The Cleveland Clinic has developed a technology which can turn around coronavirus tests in eight hours, although further in-house testing is still needed.

Wind Energy Success

- Ireland was first in the EU in 2019 for the share of electricity demand met by onshore Wind Energy and second for wind power overall. Across the EU, wind power provides 15% of all electricity needs. (see figure below).

FIGURE 8
Percentage of the electricity demand covered by wind in 2019¹⁵



Source: WindEurope