

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 10 September 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact 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 Executive Update

The ACEI Executive under the leadership of President Conor McCarthy will resume its regular meetings this month after the Summer break. The Executive welcomes suggestions from members in relation to its ongoing work and updates on recent initiatives can be accessed in the [FConsEI / RConsEI](#) login area on the ACEI Website. ACEI recently provided submissions on the July Stimulus Plan and Budget 2021 to government ministers.

Regional Skills Consultation on Apprenticeships

A national consultation process is under way to support the development of a new *Apprenticeship Action Plan* to 2025. *Regional Skills* is supporting this initiative, focusing in particular on assisting SMEs within regions across the country to increase participation in apprenticeships programmes. Ideas from firms are needed regarding how to make apprenticeship more attractive and more accessible to women and people with disabilities. Completing a [short online survey](#) will help in the preparation of regional submissions to inform future policy on the new five year plan.

Engineers Ireland Engineering Excellence Digital Series

Through its new [Engineering Excellence Digital Series](#), held in association with ESB, Engineers Ireland is recognising a variety of engineering skills and talent demonstrated during 2020. The digital series plans to showcase, from a number of perspectives, engineers and engineering projects undertaken this year. Entries can be submitted into one of three open categories up until 16 September 2020. Entry is free and open to organisations that employ engineers based on the island of Ireland.

FIDIC Business Weeks September 2020

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) is running a number of online business events in September. Employees in ACEI member firms are welcome to attend any or all of these. Registration and further details are available on the [ACEI Website](#).

Best Business Practice Forum	10 September, 10.30am
Future Leaders Symposium	10 September, 12.30 pm
Conference (two days)	11 & 14 September, 11am
General Assembly Meeting	15 September, 11am
Ask the FIDIC Board (Q&A)	16 September, 12.30pm

New SME Credit Guarantee Scheme

A new scheme launched this week will allow Irish firms to apply for loans covered by the Government's €2bn credit guarantee scheme. This initiative means SMEs can borrow up to €1m, with 80% of the loan guaranteed by the State. Its aim is to assist firms to better cope with the economic fallout from the pandemic. The scheme will be the biggest ever Irish state-backed loan. Businesses can apply through one of the current participating finance providers: AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank, but plans are in progress to add other financial institutions soon. Further information and the application process is available on the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation ([DBEI website](#)).

ArcDox BIM Mentor Programme

ArcDox is once again offering a free online Mentor Programme aimed at those wishing to pursue an interest in becoming a BIM Coordinator, BIM Manager, or Digital Design & Construction Professional. The directors of ArcDox, including Ralph Montague will provide guidance and advice based on 11 years of experience in this area.

The commitment required from participants is to attend a one hour online Teams Meeting daily, Mon-Fri, for 10 days, between 1pm-2pm (GMT+1). The programme starts on Monday 28th September and finishes on Friday 9th October. An outline of the programme can be viewed in a short [video](#) and there is an [online registration form](#).

CIF Report on Mental Health

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) has recently published a report on mental health in the construction sector. [Survey findings](#) indicate among other results, that staff mental wellbeing has important safety implications. Sinéad Proos, Head of Health and Wellbeing at Laya Healthcare said of the report: *"The research from CIF is extremely insightful in terms of how we can best help to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in the construction sector. While it's very encouraging to see that most leaders in this sector acknowledge the importance of mental health and wellbeing as a health and safety consideration, it is concerning that over half of companies believe that staff under report mental health issues."*

Recent Good News

- Information on available supports for online learning including innovation vouchers from research centre *Learnovate* based in Trinity College Dublin is [now available](#). Firms can access up to €15,000 in government funding and request Learnovate's help with solving a challenge in digital learning by [registering their interest online](#).
- The science-based technology company 3M has recently awarded €420,000 in funding to two RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) [research projects related to Covid-19](#). The funded projects will focus on two specific areas: the formation of micro blood clots within the lung, and the ability of the drug Cilengitide to slow or stop Covid-19 from causing severe damage leading to sepsis.
- The Atypical Working Scheme (AWS) Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality has introduced a [new online platform](#) to complete an AWS application. Previously a hard copy form submitted by post was required. The AWS is a type of Irish work permission that allows non-EEA nationals to work in Ireland for a short term period of between 15-90 days.
- [DevelopmentAid](#) recently announced that tenders by [international donors](#) have increased in Q2 2020 to a total of 16,215. One of the reasons for this was a large procurement growth in sectors directly linked to the pandemic including health, education, media and communications, and laboratories.

Managing Burnout due to WFH

A recent post from TED's "How to Be a Better Human" series, addresses the way the pandemic has pushed so many of us to [work from home \(WFH\)](#). Although the working environment has been enthusiastically embraced by many, the author notes that *"the real challenge is keeping people from working too hard and helping them fight the burnout that could turn a short-term productivity gain into a long-term drain"*. Four ways to manage WFH burnout are outlined including: 1. Set "business" hours; 2. Develop a post-work ritual; 3. Change devices when you change modes; 4. Go outside.