

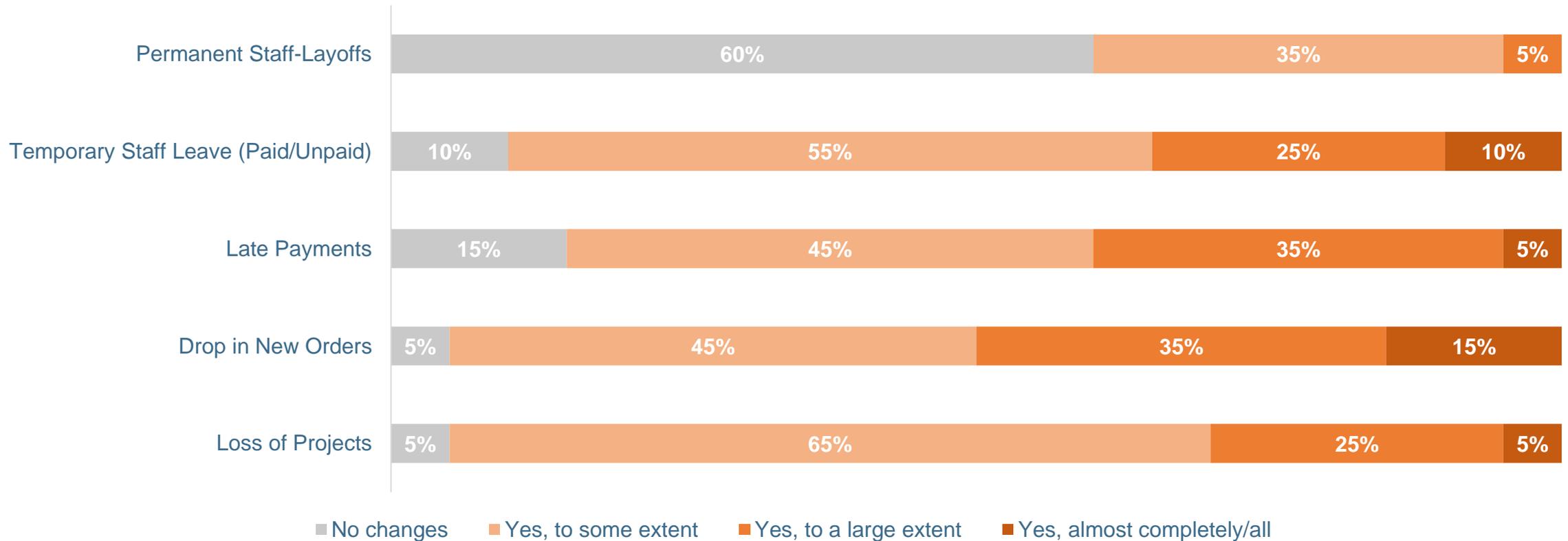
## OVERVIEW

- Survey conducted between 2.4.20 and 6.4.20
- A total of 10 questions (8 closed, 2 open)
- 20 MAs responded (approx. 2/3rd)

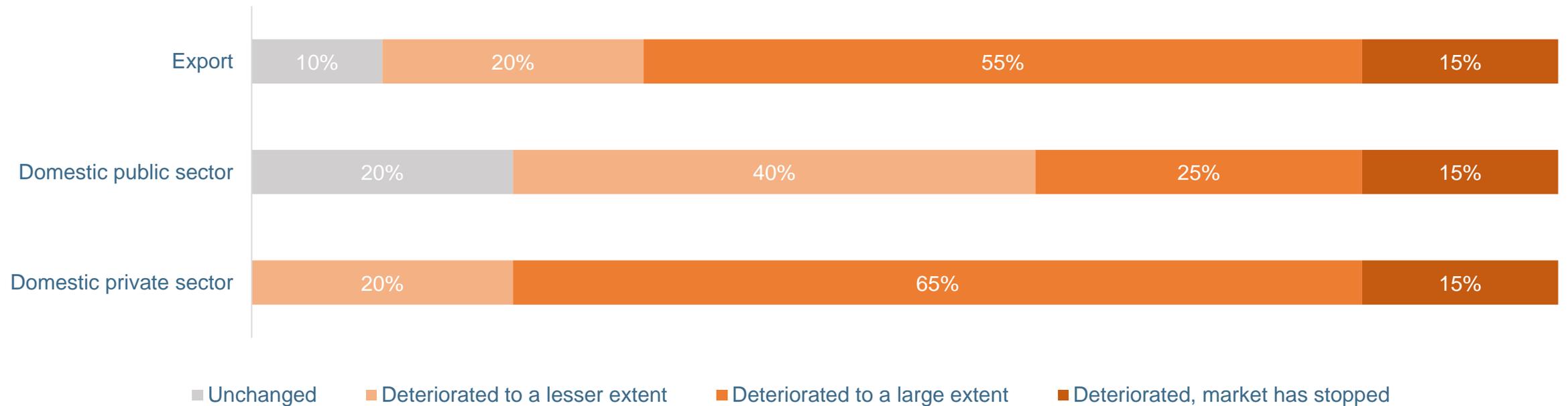
### **Main conclusions:**

- **Staff:** Permanent layoffs are not (yet) prevalent, but temporary leaves are
- **Orders:** Significant drop in new projects observed, as well as to an extent loss of projects
- Effects are affecting primarily the domestic private sector and export

## How are companies affected?



How have the following sectors been affected by the crisis, compared to the situation in January 2020?



What are your country’s current measures against Corona/Covid-19, measures to alleviate the industry as well as your association’s primary initiatives (including lobbying) and/or your members’ concerns. Please describe in a few words.

LUXEMBURG	<p><a href="https://www.oai.lu/fr/24/accueil/actualite-agenda/actualite/0-mode-news-id-2190/">https://www.oai.lu/fr/24/accueil/actualite-agenda/actualite/0-mode-news-id-2190/</a>  <a href="https://www.oai.lu/fr/24/accueil/actualite-agenda/actualite/0-mode-news-id-2235/">https://www.oai.lu/fr/24/accueil/actualite-agenda/actualite/0-mode-news-id-2235/</a>  a lot of actions with government and construction sector partners and Think Tank OAI Post Covid-19</p>
BULGARIA	<p>Bulgaria has 541 reported cases of COVID-19 within its borders (April 6, 2020 ).  Bulgaria has 21 reported fatalities from COVID-19 within its borders.  Bulgaria is following WHO guidance on threat mitigation.  The Bulgarian government has banned the entry of persons arriving from some countries, but these restrictions do not apply to Bulgarian citizens and their family members, or persons with permanent or long term residence permits and members of their families.  There is a ban for visiting public places, including those open-space like parks etc., there are huge fines imposed on those breaking the restrictions; You also have to keep distance at least 2 meters from one another;  There are fixed shopping hours (only grocery stores, those selling essential commodities, pharmacies, and banks are open), different for people over 55 and others, so that they don't visit one and the same place at the same time.  Measures regarding the industry - the state will take part of the salaries of people working in businesses affected by the coronavirus and threatened with layoffs. A credit line for special liquidity support for businesses suffering from a lack of sufficient funds has been opened.  As for the construction industry, the work of the municipal administrations related to the deposited documents is slow. The issuing of permits for construction as well as other documents has been delayed.  This is due to the compliance with the requirements of the state and municipal administrations caused by the state of emergency introduced on 03/13/2020. The financing of projects in the short term will not be affected, but in the medium to long term it will be extremely difficult.  BACEA is trying to continue supporting its members - office is closed, secretariat working from home, more online trainings and seminars are being organised, online consultations for our members with experts; daily information updates;</p>

SWITZERLAND	<p>Switzerland has closed all non-essential shops from March 16th to at least April 19th. Construction sites are open, however, some Cantons have closed them (Geneva, Ticino). usic insists toward authorities to continue planning projects and procurements as to speed up economic recovery after the crisis. Measures taken are regular fact Sheets on Government orders, letter-templates for re-occurring conditions (i.e. delays), newsletters, a special website (<a href="https://usic.ch/fr/corona">https://usic.ch/fr/corona</a>) and a news ticker. Also, usic regularly intervenes on behalf of members toward authorities. Main member concerns are loss of productivity due to home office, loss of employees due to Risk factors or military service and a general uncertainty for the future. usic has intensified coordination with Partner associations to speak in one voice.</p>
SWEDEN	<p>Sweden has introduced paid sick leaves from day 1, with more coverage by the state. Most industries have negotiated the possibility for temporary leaves with the unions. This permits companies to send home the number of employees they need with the state covering half the costs. Companies are also allowed to withhold VAT and tax-payments, they can also loan back VAT/tax payments already done (carrying an interest). Banks are also encouraged to loan more to their clients.</p> <p>Swedish society has not closed down as most other countries. The authorities rely on voluntary participation and commitment to the recommendations made by the health authorities. The recommendations are to stay home if you are sick or have symptoms. Isolate the elderly and sick. Work from home as much as possible. Maintain distance with others. No assemblies over 50 persons are permitted.</p>
LATVIA	<p>In Latvia there are all traditional limitations applied during the emergency situation. (No traveling abroad, limited use of public transport, not more than 2 people can meet at the same time and they should keep 2 m distance, both indoor and outdoor, working from home, etc)</p> <p>The industry can carry on according all those limitations.</p> <p>The public sector still keeps on working accordance to the initial procurement plans. So, there are still projects coming up on the market. LIKA supported the open letter of the construction industry NGOs to the government to proceed with current plans and initiate some new activities to keep the industry up and running.</p>
FRANCE	<p>Postpone taxes, due dates. Increasing loans to companies (300B€). Subsidizing workforce for part time unemployment (15b€/month)</p> <p>Lobbying :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make sure that remote activities can benefit from part time unemployment measures</li> <li>push to mitigate the decrease in private and public investments</li> <li>help construction industry in the definition of safety measures on construction and industrial sites</li> </ul>

ROMANIA	Romania is under emergency state, and some parts of the country are in quarantine. Construction activities are encouraged. Sites under the administration of the Transport Ministry are opened and works are in progress. Most design companies operate on digital platforms with the employees working from home.
GERMANY	Short-time allowance, quick money for small companies, pay bills as quick as possible, keep authorities working, keep construction sites working
BELGIUM	<p>Support measures for companies affected by the coronavirus-crisis.            Implementation of temporary unemployment due to force majeure for employees of engineering firms.            Deferral of the repayment of business loans (for a max of 6 months).</p> <p>Our organisation has informed the several relevant ministers of the different regions about the impact of the crisis on the sector, and our will to continue working (public infrastructure projects, ...), without putting a hold on the governmental investment plans.</p> <p>Overview: see <a href="https://www.ori.be/nl/corona/">https://www.ori.be/nl/corona/</a> - <a href="https://www.ori.be/fr/corona/">https://www.ori.be/fr/corona/</a></p>
IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsidies for wages / salaries being introduced by government</li> <li>• Subsidies for struggling firms and banking supports underwritten by government</li> <li>• Some government departments making online / electronic submissions and payments available.</li> <li>• ACEI lobbying planning regulator, national building control office to assist where possible. Also lobbying public sector client bodies to highlight concerns</li> <li>• Dedicated Covid-19 'ConsultA' newsletter developed and being sent weekly to members</li> <li>• Regular online meetings with the Executive Board to address concerns for and on behalf of member firms</li> <li>• Phone call campaign, with follow up emails completed, to all member firms to provide encouragement, advice and find out main concerns.</li> <li>• ACEI member firms encouraged to assist with a COVID Engineering Alliance initiative to support the national health service Executive.</li> </ul>
PORTUGAL	APPC launched a survey to the member companies. We will share the results.

GREECE	<p>Greece has imposed a traffic restriction. Going to work is allowed, but not meetings in offices and in public services, which are under-operated. Our Association has instructed our members to work from home. We have submitted a letter and attended two teleconferences with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Works in order to agree on measures to facilitate work and payments using digital technology.</p>
NORWAY	<p>Norway: The government has taken broad measures in terms of reduced company taxes and better unemployment benefits for persons. Some public clients have pushed forward public works, mostly gaining the contractor side. Most public clients are eager to continue design work as planned, but some projects are delayed. The private sector has been most affected, a significant part of projects delayed or stopped.</p> <p>RIF has 3 different actions going on since the beginning of March:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Information and direct assistance to member companies on legal concerns both on contracts and employees</li> <li>2. Direct dialogue with major public clients, mostly on infrastructure work, ensuring the clients that our members are fully operational</li> <li>3. Lobbying the central government on crisis packages for the industry</li> </ol>
AUSTRIA	in progress
UKRAINE	<p>The government ordered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a recommendation to companies to switch to a remote mode of operation;</li> <li>- full quarantine for people over 60</li> <li>- a ban on the use of recreational and sports areas</li> <li>- stopped air, rail and bus passenger transport between cities</li> <li>- use of municipal transport only with special passes and in personal protective equipment</li> <li>- only grocery stores and pharmacies work in retail</li> </ul> <p>Measures to alleviate the industry have not yet been proposed by the government.</p> <p>Last weeks ICEG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- helps its members in the preparation of tender proposals,</li> <li>- through own representatives continues to work in the task force groups of the relevant ministries</li> <li>- shares among companies FIDIC and EFCA recommendations on how to work in a crisis</li> <li>- negotiates with the various categories of customers to activate the announcement of tenders for consulting engineer services</li> </ul>

<p>ESTONIA</p>	<p>EAACEC forwarded to the Government Crisis Committee proposals for dealing with the crisis caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and for overcoming the crisis more quickly.</p> <p>It is important that the Estonian state increases investments to the consulting engineering sector (construction sector), because private sector investments will definitely decrease.</p> <p>It is important to increase state investment in buildings and facilities, which will provide security for the construction sector. As the economy slows down, it is important that during the economic downturn, the state increases investments in order to stabilize the market, revive the economy and reduce the effects of the negative economic cycle.</p> <p>The government has already adopted a crisis aid package and a supplementary state budget will be approved in the near future.</p>
<p>TURKEY</p>	<p>As the Covid-19 pandemic grew to raise concerns many business sectors have been slowed down at first but later completely shut down to reduce human to human contact and spread of the virus. Almost all of the Engineering and Architectural consulting and design firms in Turkey also chose to either completely move their operations to home based work or partially move to remote working with reduced office population. So that primarily the human to human contact is reduced significantly. Of course this has reduced efficiency and not all work is completely transferable to a home based performance.</p> <p>Furthermore, before the pandemic a general slowdown of the economy in Turkey as well as around its hinterland had negative impact on the amount of new projects especially for the private sector investments and other developments apart from minor government infrastructure investments. Thus with the lockdown many of the design and consulting sector work force and companies have been seriously hit by revenue reductions and inefficiency. Turkish government has announce a number of measures to help sectors cope with these short comings some of which were also applicable to consulting engineering and design businesses too.</p> <p>a. Under the package, Government has postponed for three months the April, May and June concise tax withholding, value added tax (VAT) and insurance premium payments for the retail, shopping mall, iron and steel, automotive, logistics and transportation, cinema, theater, accommodation, food and beverage, textile and garment, and event and organization sectors. Unfortunately although the construction industry is included in the above sectors the Consulting engineering and architecture sector is kept out of this measure.</p> <p>b. Government will implement the “Short Work Allowance”, and the processes required to benefit from it will be facilitated and expedited. Thus, a temporary income support to the staff in the workplaces that suspend their activities, will also reduce the cost to the employers. Our sector may benefit from this measures and may recover some of its losses due to disrupted work due to full or partial lockdown requirements.</p> <p>c. There are other banking, financing, credit line expansion, low interest rate incentives etc. being offered to general businesses to help keep the sectors running. Some of these banking and financial measures will also help firms in our sector as well.</p> <p>d. Our sector has particularly asked to implement the force major clause to at least obtain time extensions for government contracts where from obvious reasons both the administration’s and the firms do not function in full capacity thus delays are inevitable.</p> <p>e. Our members also have requested to ask governments’ assistance in maintaining cash flow and process of interim payments as this can be an issue due to reduced work force at the administration’s side too.</p>

<p>SPAIN</p>	<p>Country's current measures:          The Spanish government has approved a number of measures to alleviate the economic and social impact of COVID-19.          On 10 March 2020, the Spanish government approved a first round of economic and social measures, mainly aimed at protecting particularly vulnerable groups.          On 14 March 2020, the "alarm state" was declared by the government. Confinement and business closure measures on a nation-wide basis were adopted and were further strengthened on 17 March.          From 17 March 2020 at 00:00, all Spanish land borders were closed – only Spanish citizens and residents in Spain, cross-border workers and those persons who prove force majeure causes or situations of need are allowed to cross the borders. This restriction do not affect the transport of goods.          On 18 March 2020, the Spanish government approved an extensive package of urgent measures to deal with the economic and social impact of COVID-19 (RDL 8/20205), some of them include:          -State guarantees in order to secure access to bank loans in the event of cash flow distress; facilitate additional liquidity and cash flow; Credit lines to support SMEs.          -Financing to implement remote working solutions.          -Certain tax deadlines have been suspended until 20 May 2020.          -Remote work is established as a priority measure against the temporary cease or reduction of activity.          -Measures to enable making temporary activity adjustments and introduce flexibility, aimed to avoid layoffs and dismissals (ERTE).          On 29 March 2020, the Spanish government announced the closure of the workplaces of companies that do not provide essential services until 9 April 2020. Compulsory paid leave from 30 March until 9 April 2020 for all employees who do not provide essential services.          On 30 March 2020, the Spanish government approved the following measures: Self-employed workers and companies may request to deferral payment of Social Security contributions for up to six months, without interest.          On 3 April 2020, the government approved a new package of measures to support industry. It includes the acceleration of loans and grants and loan refinancing.          Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Saturday 4 he would ask parliament to extend lockdown measures by 15 days until April 26.          TECNIBERIA's initiatives:          Recently TECNIBERIA's President wrote to the Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and several key cabinets ministers with a range of proposals and recommendations to ensure continuity of the company's activity. The Association highlighted the following issues:          -To continue with the activities that can be carried out safely and, consequently, do not cancel payments.          -To allow projects that can be carried out remotely.          -The importance of continuing to deliver projects.          -The importance of considering the consulting engineering sector as essential services that can contribute in the current emergency.          One of the major challenges of the Spanish engineering companies is the stop of their operations, projects mothballed and salary payments. Many clients' projects are now on hold or in a limbo and contractual relationships will be affected like never before. Also, many Spanish engineering companies will face tough financial and treasury challenges in the coming months.          Other initiatives:          TECNIBERIA has created a specific banner in its website to inform the sector and member firms on what the Association is doing to respond to COVID-19 and to signpost useful sources of information and assistance.          TECNIBERIA has created a daily newsletter to provide information about the measures adopted by the Spanish government and measures to alleviate the sector.          The Association is organizing a series of webinars to address key topics which are considered appropriate and helpful to the Spanish engineering in this moment (fiscal, labour, remote work, contracts, etc..).          Staff are currently working remotely and continue to be fully contactable via email or phone.</p>
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What can EFCA do in order to assist your MA?  
Please comment on this or other topics.

SWITZERLAND	Provide a unified political position in relation to consulting engineering work, inform MAs on developments in member countries regarding government measures, reactions of peer-industries and best practice examples on dealing with the Crisis in relevant domains such as (a) prevention of closing of construction sites, (b) anticyclical public measures, (c) innovative ways of administrations to keep the work flow going, (d) Policy-priorities of different countries in relation to national measures. Use its position to transfer information quickly between MAs.
SWEDEN	This is good.
LATVIA	For time being the short term impact on the industry is rather limited. But at this moment it's rather impossible to define on how this situation with Covid-19 will develop, therefore it's rather difficult to evaluate eventual long term impact on the construction and consulting engineering industries. Some assistance might be required in case of downsizing of activities in long term.
FRANCE	Pushing a recovery plan at European level, much larger than the green deal initially planned.
ROMANIA	EFCA should continue to keep us informed with the measures taken at European level, so that national association could propose some of them ( or all) to be applied in our country.
BELGIUM	Informing the MA's on European measures to help the sector. Guidelines to help firms after the crisis.
IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide updates on what is happening in Europe re Covid-19 and how that is affecting consulting engineers and the build environment sector</li> <li>• Suggestions for keeping firms going in these difficult times</li> <li>• Suggestions on how firms can generate income in other ways</li> </ul> <p>In relation to the survey questions above, the responses ticked are based on the current information i.e. 3 April 2020. The situation in relation to projects and payments may get worse in the next few weeks. It would be good to repeat the survey at the end of April.</p>
GREECE	EFCA can intervene in the European Commission to support the consulting industry at this period and the next day. As far as Greece and the countries receiving European aid, measures should be taken to facilitate payments from co-financed projects.

NORWAY	Most actions need to be taken locally.
UKRAINE	Exchange of experience on the success of other associations in a crisis
ESTONIA	<p>To send messages to European leaders (to Estonian Government also) that it is vital to continue and increase public investments to the construction sector (to consulting engineering sector).</p> <p>To share systematic information to member associations on the crisis situation in European economies and the construction sector. If possible, share good practice from some countries.</p>
PORTUGAL	Provide / share information about the situation on different countries and about best practices on reaction from Associations.
TURKEY	<p>Our members are quite distressed with the current unstable and unpredictable period and the consequences of these long term lockdowns and its impact to the general economy thus firms are worried and quite anxious regarding costs and payments. In this environment our expectation from EFCA is to suspend and postpone the Member Association fees to EFCA for at least end of September 2020.</p> <p>Secondly, we would appreciate if EFCA can lead all member country Associations and its members to develop ideas to re mobilize our sector and better cope with this current disaster scenarios. A crowd-think-tank methodology to figure out original and prosperous ideas to re vitalize our sector may prove to be potentially efficient way of finding remedies to our current and coming problems.</p> <p>If EFCA may share some lessons learned from the member countries different implementations during the outbreak period, it would be a good resource for us.</p>
BULGARIA	<p>Share the good practices of other countries and associations, which will provide for more effective solutions in this critical station.</p> <p>Thank you for that survey!</p>
SPAIN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing information of interest to the MAs related to managing the business of engineering during this crisis (fiscal, labour, EU Procurement, etc.)</li> <li>2. Also, we consider that developing some webinars provide an opportunity for MA's, companies, professionals leaders, stakeholders to discuss how we can address the COVID-19 challenge.</li> <li>3. Monitoring and notifying on European Commission measures and also sharing MA's best practices.</li> </ol>
LUXEMBURG	<p>information about EU programmes to restart....</p> <p>best practice from other MA in crisis</p>