



ORDEM DOS ENGENHEIROS DE PORTUGAL (PORTUGUESE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION)

INITIATIVES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal (OEP) developed a series of initiatives focused on Covid-19 Pandemic.

These initiatives, outlined below, were aimed at preventing the pandemic and mitigating its consequences.

a) Pandemic COVID-19 | Recommendations for The Prevention of the Contagion in Construction and Building sites

The pandemic scenario originated by COVID-19 made critical the implementation of measures to prevent the contagion of the infection in environments of collective use, such as Construction and Building sites. In this context, the Portuguese Engineers Association decided to make some exceptional and temporary recommendations, addressed to all the parties involved with building and construction, to prevent the contagion of COVID-19, taking into account the particularities of construction sites.

These recommendations have been published on OEP website and can be consulted via the [following link »»»](#)

b) Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal available to collaborate in mitigating the effects of the pandemic

In a letter sent to the Prime Minister, the Health Minister and the Infrastructure and Housing Minister, OEP, announces its availability, as the representative of over 56,000 engineers with high technical skills in the most diverse areas to collaborate with the Government and other competent authorities, in what is considered to be in the national interest and that contributes to the safeguarding of public health and the economy.

Mr. Carlos Mineiro Aires, the President of the Ordem dos Engenheiros, in his letters also thanks the work and uninterrupted commitment those entities have developed on the front line to battle COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the Engineers Association reiterates, within the scope of its statutory functions, its willingness to collaborate in mitigating the effects of the pandemic, and puts itself at the service of the country.

Letter sent to Prime Minister can be read [here »»»](#)

Letter sent to Health Minister can be read [here »»»](#)



Letter sent to Infrastructure and Housing Minister can be read [here »»»](#)
(All documents in Portuguese)

c) Pandemic COVID-19 | Best Food Practices Guide

OEP, through its Specialization in Food Engineering, has published a Best Food Practices Guide, which aims to support and clarify companies, restaurants and citizens about the measures and care to be taken into account for the acquisition, handling, hygiene, storage and conservation of food in the current pandemic situation caused by the VIRUS SARS-CoV-2.

The document is entitled "Best Food Practices Guide during the Covid-19 Pandemic" and can be downloaded [here »»»](#)

d) Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal calls upon the Portuguese Government for support measures for the liberal engineering professionals

In the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, in which measures are taken to support professionals who carry out their professional activities for others, OEP alerts the Government to the instability suffered by a substantial number of engineers who exercise their profession liberally, whether permanently or part-time, particularly in those in consultancy, and calls on the Government for a position on this matter.

Without prejudice to the measures contemplated in Decree-Law no 10-A/2020, which establishes exceptional and temporary measures regarding the epidemiological situation of the new Coronavirus – COVID 19, as well as proposals from other Professional Associations, the Engineers Association advocates the adoption of a monthly compensation measure for the self-employed Engineers calculated based on the average income earned in recent years, affected by a corrective index, a fair and just approach in this emergency situation.

The reduction of work that is expected in the short-term, particularly in private investment, in the area of urban rehabilitation and consultancy in general, led OEP to raise this issue with the Portuguese Prime Minister and the Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transformation.

The letter sent to the Prime Minister can be read [here »»»](#)

The letter sent to the Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transformation can be found [here »»»](#)
(Both documents in Portuguese.)



e) COVID-19 | Compliance with exceptional sanitary standards in construction and building sites

Despite the moment of great adversity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many members of OEP continue to exercise their profession in both public and private institutions uninterrupted, enabling the construction sector, essential to the economy, to continue active.

It is in this context, that OEP President, Mr. Carlos Mineiro Aires called for the intervention of the Working Conditions Authority, to verify whether the guidelines issued by the national health authorities, namely the National Health Authority, are being followed in public and private construction and building sites, particularly in the larger ones, given the number of citizens involved constitute a potential focus for the collective dissemination of the pandemic.

From the letter addressed to the Inspector General, at the Working Conditions Authority, OEP also informed the Secretary of State for Infrastructure, given the Association falls under its administrative tutelage, the National Health Authority and the different sectorial associations AECOPS; AICCPCON and the CPCI.

The letter sent to the Inspector General, at the Working Conditions Authority can be found [here »»»](#)

The response letter from the Inspector General, at the Working Conditions Authority can be found [here »»»](#)

(Both documents in Portuguese)

f) COVID-19 | Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal shared with their Members the recommendations issued by the three key Internacional federations (WFEO, WCCE and REHVA):

1) World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) – “Engineering: Stepping up to the challenge of coronavirus and other global threats”

The communication developed by World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) entitled “**Engineering: Stepping up to the challenge of coronavirus and other global threats**” The document outlined the key role Engineering plays in the mitigation and management of the Pandemic in areas such as Infrastructure, Medicine, Monitoring, Collaboration and Partnership and Engineering for Sustainable Development.

It calls upon cooperation and sharing of information among engineers, encouraging to share developments and experiences, to increase the value of the initiatives in solving problems in every country in the world to ensure no country is left behind.

WFEO also calls on national governments, the United Nations and other international organizations to take effective measures to facilitate international engineering cooperation to enhance engineering capacity nationally and globally to address the pressing challenges in short and long term.

The Portuguese version of the document was shared with all the Members’ at OEP.



2) World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE) – Digital Library Divulcation and Participation

WCCE created on its website a digital library which compiled guides of best construction practices developed by a series of countries in the context of COVID-19. Portugal was one of the represented countries with its Pandemic **COVID-19 | Recommendations for The Prevention of the Contagion in Construction and Building sites** (already covered in point a).

3) How to operate and use the buildings technical systems to prevent the spread of the VIRUS SARS-CoV-2, responsible for COVID-19, in workplaces.

OEP as a member of the Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning Associations, which is represented by the Specialization in Air Conditioning Engineering, released to its members the document recently issued by the Federation. In times of great virulence, indoor air quality presents a great challenge and the Portuguese Engineers Association, the entire professional, technical and scientific community in the air conditioning sector will have to be available to expand their spheres of intervention and take a fully collaborative approach in this area. The Portuguese version of the document can be consulted via the [following link »»»](#)

g) #juntosficamosemcasa (#togetherwestayathome) Initiative the OEP developed a series of Educational and Informative Webinars under the umbrella of #togetherwestayathome that cover COVID-19 related and non-related themes. This initiative also provided a vast Cultural agenda, highlighting museums open on-line throughout this period, as well as Public online concerts.

A sample of the Webinar themes is listed below, further information can be found on the Association Webpage <https://www.ordemengenheiros.pt>

Webinars Series

COVID-19 – Transmission analysis

Guest Speaker: Manuel Gameiro da Silva, Vice-President, REHVA and Specialist in Climatization

Date: 22 April 2020

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Capture

Guest Speaker: João Gomes, Advisory Member, Portuguese Engineers Association

Date: 29 April 2020

Extraction with supercritical CO for the recovery of agricultural and forestry by-products

Guest Speaker: Marcelo Melo, Laboratory Researcher, CICECO

Moderator: Maria Isabel Rodrigues Quintaneiro, Center Regional Center Coordinator & Coordinator, College of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Portuguese Engineers Association

Date: 6 May 2020



Energy in Mobility and Buildings – the Energy Challenges with the Future of Mobility/ Energy and certification in Service Buildings

Guest Speakers:

Margarida Coelho, Dr in Environmental Engineering and Mobility and Transport Group Coordinator, Mechanical Engineering Department, Aveiro University

João Francisco Fernandes, Dr in Mechanical Engineering, FEUP and Eneergy Specialist, Portuguese Engineers Association

Moderator: Nuno Afonso Moreira, Energy Specialization Commission Coordinator, Portuguese Engineers Association

Date: 12 May 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic: Global Impact and Changing Paradigms

Guest Speaker: Antonio Costa Silva, Professor, Engineer, Instituto Superior Técnico Professor and President Group Executive Commission, PARTEX OIL AND GAS

Moderator: Carlos Mineiro Aires, President, Portuguese Engineers Association

Date: 18 May 2020

Code of Good Food Practices during COVID-19

Guest speakers:

Délio Raimundo, Dr in Food Engineering, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Post-graduate in Food Safety & Public Health, Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde Ricardo Jorge,

Carla Trindade, Canteen Support Group Coordinator, Food Engineering Special Commission Member, Portuguese Engineering Association

Maria José Teixeira Dias – Food Engineer, Global Key Account Director, LSG Group

Moderator: Margarida Moldão, Food Engineering Specialisation Committee Coordinator, Portuguese Engineers Association and Associate Professor, University of Lisbon/Instituto Superior de Agronomia

Date: 19 May 2020

COVID-19 – Impact and Recovery Scenarios

Guest Speakers:

Jorge Marrão, President General Council, Associação Missão Crescimento

Luis Mira Amaral, Counselor Member, Portuguese Engineers Association

Jorge Portugal, Diretor-General, COTEC

Moderator: Carlos Mineiro Aires, President, Portuguese Engineers Association

Date: 21 May 2020

Energy Trade and Distribution

Guest Speakers:

Nuno Afonso Moreira President and Board Member, Dourogas Group.

Manuel de Matos Fernandes Guest Professor at ISEL, responsible for the Electric Energy Production área, Sub Director, REN, and Member of the Energy Specialization Committee, Portuguese Engineers Association



Moderator: Paulo Pedro dos Santos, Director General, TERMOGREEN, Vice-Coordinator Energy Commission, Portuguese Engineers Association and Secretary General of APEB – Associação dos Produtores de Energia e Biomassa.

Date: 26 May 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic – Impact and future for Construction

Guest Speakers:

Manuel Reis Campos, President, AICCOPN and CPCI

Jorge Menezes, President, APPC

Keynote Address: Carlos Mineiro Aires, President, Portuguese Engineers Association

Moderator: Luís Machado, President, National Council Civil College, Portuguese Engineers Association

h) At an internal level, OEP implemented a Contingency Action Plan for the safeguarding of both members and staff entitled **Contingency Action Plan for the Prevention of the Human Infection Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19) Transmission.**

The details of this initiative are outlined below:

- i. OEP on March 16 decided to close all the member facing offices while assuring the continuity of all services by phone or online, as well as through the their online One-Stop Shop in which, autonomously, members can make virtually all requests and interactions with their professional association, allowing them to continuously exercise their professional activity;
- ii. All national and regional events were cancelled, a decision that will be reevaluated taking into account the evolution of the epidemiological situation;
- iii. Reduced to strictly the indispensable all face-to-face meetings, whether internal or external, focusing rather on the use of technological means for their realization.