



THE IMPACT OF COVID ON CONSULTING ENGINEERING IN POLAND



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As of week 13 of coronavirus epidemic in Poland, below is the impact on the consulting engineering sector analyzed using corporate governance stakeholders: theory:

COMMUNITIES

Supporting local business has become a trend and fashion during this crisis, even simple implementations such as local office suppliers direct delivery to onsite project teams, office lunches, local coffee etc. has become the new norm.

INVESTORS

My estimate is that the majority of owner/management attention has focused on securing cash flow. In Poland banks have secured their cash sources yet are having trouble analyzing risk of COVID and this has had impact on project financing for clients and also for contractors and consultants. Even more severe is this impact in the private home developer industry. Performance guarantees issued by brokers and banks have also become an issue.

GOVERNMENTS

The Polish system of certified electronic signatures, electronic tendering and other communications means have made it quite easy to switch to this none traditional way of interaction with government. The tools were already available, but many more companies and people are using them today. Tax documents, bids, etc. all are signed electronically. The government COVID-issued emergency funding has provided some ease for contractors and consultants that had projects that were impacted by a decrease of sales.





CUSTOMERS

In our practice clients from small and medium projects were given access for free to our cloud project management tool and we can see they are enjoying it and have been very open to conference calls, video calls, and using basecamp.com even for formal communication. When it comes to large clients like the national road agency and the railway agency, initially, they have been limiting meetings and onsite presence to the minimum and have been open. The vast majority of construction sites are operating, there was no “shut down” of our industry.

EMPLOYEES

What is most important is how COVID impacted employees. Based on our company - for about five years now we have been using an American cloud project management tool. We have structured it and customized it to match engineering consulting projects. A year and a half ago we have started allowing one remote work day a week, and we saw no impact on productivity.

COVID of course came as a surprise and we have closed our main office 8 weeks ago going fully into Microsoft Teams, Basecamp and traditional email. Productivity has not suffered one bit, on the contrary I see that decision making and accountability has increased. Site inspectors when absolutely required by our construction law do show up onsite and do physical inspection.

Many companies have limited employee travel, and issued COVID instruction pertaining to distancing, hygiene etc.

