

Local Enterprise Office announces Dublin Cities' Best Young Entrepreneurs and €50,000 investment fund winners

Young entrepreneurs from Dublin City win places at Regional Finals

Dublin City's "Best Young Entrepreneurs" for 2019 and €50,000 investment fund winners were announced at an awards ceremony hosted by Local Enterprise Office Dublin City yesterday evening.

As part of a nationwide search launched by Minister Heather Humphreys and Minister Pat Breen to find Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneurs (IBYE) for 2019, the 3 winners and 3 runners-up were chosen from 15 local finalists and will now share a €50,000 investment fund.

The '*Best New Idea*' category, with a €7,000 investment fund, was won by Lizzy Hayashida, aged 34, founder of Change Donations a social enterprise giving donors access to a micro-donation system. The runner-up award and €3,000 investment fund went to Neil Dunne, aged 23 of Andron, a digital A&R company.

The winner of the '*Best Start-Up Business*' category and the €15,000 investment fund was Luke Mackey, aged 24, founder of Bamboo, the social way for busy people to order sit-in or pick-up meals from great restaurants close to your office. The runner-up in this category, collecting a €5,000 investment fund, was John Ryan, aged 33, of Gigable, a mobile application that puts people and businesses together for short-term work, or "Gigs".

Meanwhile, the title of '*Best Established Business*', with an investment fund of €15,000, went to Devan Hughes, aged 30, founder of Buymie an on-demand grocery e-commerce platform that enables groceries and household items to be delivered from store to door in one hour by a personal shopper. The runner-up in this category, scooping a €5,000 investment fund, was Niall Horgan, aged 32, of Gym + Coffee, an athleisure clothing company.

Each finalist received targeted business supports through the Local Enterprise Office Dublin City. They attended an intensive Business Boot Camp, receiving mentoring and support on their business plans, pitch training as well as getting the opportunity to connect with other young entrepreneurs from Dublin City.

Greg Swift, Head of Enterprise with Local Enterprise Office Dublin City said: "*As our winners clearly demonstrate, youth entrepreneurship is thriving here in Dublin City. IBYE is about discovering local potential and nurturing that talent through financial supports, mentoring, training and networking opportunities. In 2019, Local Enterprise Office Dublin City supported*

119 young entrepreneurs through the IBYE competition and over 553 young entrepreneurs in total, since the competition began in 2014. We want to build on that success by supporting Dublin City's young entrepreneurs today and into the future."

The winners from LEO Dublin City will now progress to the Dublin regional finals, which take place on 12th June. 24 national finalists will be selected at regional finals across the country to compete for the overall title of "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur."

At the IBYE national final on Sunday 15th September, which takes place at Google's European Headquarters in Dublin, a €100,000 investment fund will be awarded to winners.

Further details on the competition and supports available to young entrepreneurs are available through www.localenterprise.ie and www.ibye.ie .

ENDS

For further press information please contact:

Ailish Smyth
(01)222 6054 / (087) 758 4979 / ailish.smyth@dublincity.ie

Notes to Editor:

About IBYE:

Now in its fifth year, Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur is a nationwide youth enterprise initiative run by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) and funded by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland and local authorities.

A €2million investment fund is available through IBYE which supports young entrepreneurs through training, mentoring and direct financial investments.

In 2019, nationally, 1,644 young entrepreneurs entered IBYE. IBYE was open to people between the ages of 18 and 35 (at the date of application) with an innovative business idea, new start-up or established business, including: individuals, venture teams, partnerships, existing businesses with a new idea, or people overseas(including Irish emigrants) who will headquarter in Ireland.

Each LEO has a total fund of up to €50,000 to invest in six businesses (three category winners and three runners-up) according to criteria including businesses' investment needs.

The three categories are as follows:

- Best Business Idea (pre-trading) – up to €10,000 investment fund through every LEO (€7,000 for category winner and €3,000 for runner-up, through every LEO)

- Best Start-Up Business (In business 18 months or less), with up to €20,000 investment fund through every LEO (€15,000 for category winner and €5,000 for runner-up, through every LEO)
- Best Established Business (trading for more than 18 months) with up to €20,000 investment fund through every LEO (€15,000 for category winner and €5,000 for runner-up, through every LEO)

The county winners will now proceed to eight regional finals from which 24 contenders (three from each region – one in each category) will be selected to compete for the national title of Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur.

A further €100,000 investment fund will be available to invest in the winners of the three categories at the national finals, one of which will also be named as “Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur.”

Local Enterprise Office Dublin City 2019 Winners

Winner of Best Idea

Lizzy Hayashida

Change Donations is a Social Enterprise reimagining the fundraising process for donors and charities, by giving donors access to a micro-donation system allowing them to link their card, round up their transactions to the next euro, and donate their spare change to the organizations they care about most.

www.changedonations.com

Runner Up of Best Idea

Neil Dunne

Andrson is the answer to digital A&R. We use audio AI to directly link unsigned musicians to music executives.

Winner of Best Start Up Business

Luke Mackey

Bamboo the social way for busy people to order sit-in or pick-up meals from great restaurants around your office. We build hyperlocal marketplaces of restaurants and cafes in cities. Users order and pay ahead for pick-up or dine-in by themselves or with friends. Companies can manage lunches through our platform to pay or co-pay for staff meals.

bamboo.app/

Runner Up of Best Start Up Business

John Ryan

Gigable allows people to pick up Gigs, or short-term work, at times that suit their busy lives. By setting tags and availability in their profile, Gigs that are available that match their tags are then presented to them as opportunities that they can apply for.

gigable.app

Winner of Best Established Business

Devan Hughes

Buymie is an on-demand grocery e-commerce platform that provides users with the ability to order grocery and household items from large retailers and have it delivered store to door in as little as 1 Hour, by their very own personal shopper. Personal shoppers use their own smartphone and car to accept and fulfil orders on behalf of customers, and the Buymie algorithm analyses and calculates the most optimal routes for them to take.

www.buymie.ie

Runner Up of Best Established Business

Niall Horgan

Gym+Coffee, a quality athleisure clothing company promoting a healthy lifestyle while socialising.

gympluscoffee.com

The Overall Winner of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Dublin City Final 2019

Luke Mackey

Bamboo the social way for busy people to order sit-in or pick-up meals from great restaurants around your office. We build hyperlocal marketplaces of restaurants and cafes in cities. Users order and pay ahead for pick-up or dine-in by themselves or with friends. Companies can manage lunches through our platform to pay or co-pay for staff meals.

bamboo.app/