

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

KILDARE LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE - MENTOR PANEL 2021-2022		
MENTOR NAME	MENTOR BUSINESS NAME	MENTOR BIO
<p>Mairead Sweeney</p> 	<p>Mairead Sweeney Financial Consulting</p>	<p>Chartered Accountant with over 16 years experience adept at creating robust financial management and reporting capability for rapidly growing organisations providing leadership and supporting value creation, business development and growth. Set up first finance department for a start-up at the tender age of 15, experience in both the private sector (KPMG, Oracle, Abbott Medical Optics) and public sector (Kildare Co Co & HSE).</p> <p>Key skills include Business Advisory Services and Mentoring Services in the following areas; Implementation of Accounting Packages, Financial Management/Cashflows, Funding applications, Costing/Pricing, Taxation and Basic Book Keeping.</p>
<p>John Dempsey</p>	<p>Dempsey Professional Services Ltd</p>	<p>A proven ability to work well with diverse groups of people. A willingness to listen, learn from and understand people, situations. John is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has worked extensively within the SME sector; is a Certified Mediator; and holds Post Graduate qualifications in Information Technology and Counselling. From his self employed work, a proven track record in adapting to diverse persons needs, for example in a Start Your Own Business course; innovating in finding solutions for small businesses incl' amending a pricing strategy (finance); and helping to implement strong bookkeeping practices and tax management systems.</p>
<p>Kilian Duignan</p> 	<p>Kilsea Limited T/A Gateway Consulting</p>	<p>Experienced Business Owner and Professional Services Advisor focused on helping SMEs improve their business growth and diversify into overseas markets, as appropriate. Strong track record driving the commercial growth of businesses in industry and as a professional advisor. Extensive experience working on strategy, operations, commercial and financial analysis, people management and product review / development with SMEs in Ireland. Strong commercial acumen, qualified accountant and extensive experience developing strategy and managing operations</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

Leo Gibson



Mentor Consultants & Training Services Ltd.

Leo Gibson has a Bachelor of Commerce from UCD (1975) and Certificate in Training & Development from DIT (2010). He also has a Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring (2016) as well as an IBM certificate in respect of their course on Manufacturing Accounting and Production Inventory Control. Leo has run a wide range of training programmes for various agencies both in Ireland and overseas over the last twenty five years. In addition, he designed several widely used Certification Modules for City & Guilds/FAS in respect of: Sales Preparation, Sales Techniques, Customer Service, Financial Accounting, and Business Appraisal

He has advised over three hundred CEB/LEO clients as a business adviser on a wide range of start-up related issues. He has also carried out over fifty mentoring assignments mainly for small existing businesses covering issues such as: Sales development, Online and offline marketing, Manufacturing operations, Export marketing, Corporate strategy development, Accounting systems development, LEAN management, HR issues

David Broderick



Auxilia Consultants

David has worked for 15 years at senior level across a number of different sectors including Financial Services, Education and Aviation leasing. During his career in Ibec David led projects and initiatives in the areas of Commercial Strategy, HRM, Organisation Development, Industrial Relations, Restructuring and Change Management. In the early part of his career David gained significant experience structuring, developing and managing international graduate placement programmes for indigenous and multinational companies such as Apple, Bord Bia, Hovione Pharma, EMC, O2, Tourism Ireland, Teelings and Glanbia. David's key skills include a proven track record to coach, develop, influence and motivate individuals at all levels to achieve their goals. David is an excellent communicator with strong interpersonal skills and is well recognised for developing and maintaining strong relationships. David has an MSc in strategy, a BBS in management, a Diploma in High Performance Sales as well as qualifications in training & development, employment law and managing people.

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Paul Murtagh</p> 	<p>Paul Murtagh Business Consultancy</p>	<p>Paul Murtagh is a business mentor and consultant providing support to start-up businesses across a variety of sectors. He focuses on business planning, business strategy, financial planning, research and development, raising funds and commercialisation. Paul has a background in IT, Financial Services and Manufacturing.</p> <p>Paul is a former Senior Vice President/Managing Director of Fidelity Investments (Ireland). Paul joined Fidelity in 1996 and had overall responsibility for developing strategies to optimise the Fidelity IT operation in Ireland. During this time the organisation grew to almost 400 people and Paul established a \$32m Research & Development Centre focusing on key components of Fidelity’s core fund management operation.</p> <p>Prior to this, Paul co-founded an IT business in Ireland with a specific focus on systems for manufacturing businesses. Paul is a member of the mentor panel with a number LEO’s and also carries out commercial assessments for the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership programme. Paul sits on the Board of a number of ‘not for profit’ organisations in the Kildare and Meath region. Paul holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA), has Professional Level Membership of the British Computer Society (MBCS), is a Chartered IT Professional (CITP), has a post-graduate Diploma in Professional Financial Advice (QFA) form UCD and is a member of the Institute of Bankers.</p>
<p>Lar Burke</p> 	<p>Lar Burke & Associates Ltd</p>	<p>Lar offers proven advisory, mentoring and facilitation capabilities; a network of contacts across major lenders, development agencies, business angel and early-stage finance networks and highly developed communications and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Lar established the first formal business angel network in Ireland – matching companies seeking finance with individuals interested in investing in companies. He has evaluated companies for leading banks, government bodies and development agencies including Enterprise Ireland and Local Enterprise Offices.</p> <p>On an ongoing basis, Lar works closely with organisation leaders, business owners; accountants and other advisors:</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Blaise Brosnan</p> 	<p>MRI (wex) Ltd</p>	<p>Blaise Brosnan has a unique blend of practical top management experience gained over 25 years in his capacity as Chief Executive of a well known National Irish business and later as business mentor to a range of Irish business types.</p> <p>Blaise has also worked closely with many major international companies all over the world, to successfully implement business interventions and strategic growth programs, guiding these businesses through the many phases of change to successful outcomes and significant growth in business and profitability.</p> <p>Earlier in his career to underpin his ‘cutting edge’ experience, Blaise studied and graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1989 with a M.Sc – Management.</p>
<p>Sean Ryan</p> 	<p>Midland Business Training & Development Ltd</p>	<p>In 2014 Sean Ryan joined the business bringing a range of skills acquired from his work at senior levels in the public service & semi state sector. His experience in Human Resources and as Chief Executive Officer with Offaly County Enterprise Board Ltd expanded the range of services provided by Midland Business Training.</p> <p>Summary details of his career, experience and qualifications include:</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer & Company Secretary- Offaly County Enterprise Board Limited 2004-2013</p> <p>Duties included implementation of National Policy for provision of supports to the Small & Medium Enterprise sector, management of limited company and development of new and innovative programmes to address the ongoing challenges affecting the sector.</p>
<p>Padraig Briody</p> 	<p>Padraig Briody & Associates</p>	<p>Padraig Briody & Associates has an established track record in business mentoring, business skills training & management development. Padraig is a self-motivated, commercially astute, creative thinker with proven leadership skills who enjoys energising and motivating small businesses to deliver value added performances. Padraig is also a self-employed entrepreneur (Patrick Briody & Sons Ltd, Well Drilling, www.briodydrilling.com) therefore has strong practical skills and empathy with the internal strengths, weaknesses & external opportunities & threats facing a small Business.</p> <p>As a business owner, Padraig can relate to and offer practical advice on the internal & external work environment of the small owner/manager, for example; delayed debtor payments and the knock-on effect on funding payroll expense, pressure to sustain/ increase sales in a competitive environment, financial and resource restraints holding back pursuit of new opportunities, cash flow management, maintaining a quality system and preserving and motivating key staff.</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

		<p>Padraig's strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating perceived or actual added value to a Business product or service offering. • Negotiating and closing a win-win business deal OR product/ service sale. • Making a strategic assessment on a Business's current position and advising how the Business could move forward with a road map/strategy to achieve medium to longer term plans. <p>Padraig holds a Masters of Business Studies, a Bachelor of Commerce, a diploma in Marketing, a Professional diploma in Financial advice and an IITD Certificate in Training and Development. Padraig is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and the LIA Education & Development Assoc. for Financial Services</p>
<p>Muireann Fitzmaurice</p>	<p>Soul Garden Ltd</p>	 <p>Working with brands such as Intel, Flora, Knorr Vie, Slimfast, MiWadi and other B2B brands, Muireann has 15 years corporate marketing management experience. Since 2011, she has been working directly with business owners to help them CREATE & EXECUTE excellent marketing plans. She has worked with brands such as Vhi Women's Mini Marathon, Entrepreneurs Academy and hundreds of small business owners.</p> <p>Muireann Fitzmaurice works with entrepreneurs to help them figure out how get their brand name out there, what tools to use & ways to increase engagement with customers. Muireann provides coaching to CEOs who want to sharpen their marketing strategy.</p> <p>She runs the award winning business MarketingCoach.ie. Recently awarded <i>Business All-Star Thought Leader in Marketing Strategy 2019</i> she is an experienced mentor and trainer working with hundreds of businesses each year on marketing, innovation and business planning.</p> <p>Using the MarketingCoachToolkit™ methodology, Muireann can work with you to clarify how you plan to get customers. Muireann is brilliant at helping business owners understand how to create simple and effective plans.</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>John Mac Namara</p>	<p>BCM Business Cost Management Limited</p>	<p>John has 40 years experience including 13 years in Senior Management roles prior to becoming founder and Executive Director of successful International Cost Reduction and Management Consultancy business. John has extensive Community Development interests. Excellent commercial skills, business maturity and high levels of innovation skills</p>
<p>Aidan McCormack</p> 	<p>McCormack Healthcare Ltd t/a Emotive Coaching and Consultancy</p>	<p>A highly accomplished Business Professional, Coach and Mentor with an exceptional level of expertise in business development, continuity, training, coaching, mentoring and consultancy. Specialising in Coaching, Mentoring, Consultative Selling, Management, and Project Management. Former President of The Association of Dental Dealers in Europe. Known as an exceptional communicator with excellent people skills. Holds a Master Degree in Business Practice. ▪ Business and Career Coaching ▪ Leadership & Management ▪ Business Continuity & Recovery. ▪ Psychometric Assessments ▪ Career Consultancy ▪ Strategy & Innovation • Project Management ▪ Training & Facilitation • Sales & Marketing ▪ Business Mentoring ▪ Communications ▪ Emotional Intelligence</p>
<p>Niall Glynn</p> 	<p>Niall Glynn & Associates Limited</p>	<p>Niall Glynn & Associates was set up in 2010 to provide HR Business Solutions & Mentoring mainly to SME businesses including Start Ups and Business / Career Coaching to Senior Executives. Niall has over 30 years' experience in Corporate and Investment Banking sectors, specialising in Human Resource Management and Organisation Change. A Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Personnel & Development and a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland, he has held senior HR roles in AIB Capital Markets, Ulster Bank Markets and with ABN AMRO Bank N.V., Dublin as Head of HR, Organisation Change & Communications</p>
<p>Alva Pearson</p> 	<p>Pearson Consulting</p>	<p>Alva has worked in a senior level capacity for over 17 years as a Sales & Marketing Director, she is also a Business Studies Graduate from GMIT and more recently obtained a Diploma in Digital Marketing. Alva has a wealth of experience having worked in the tourism sector and indeed has helped brands across all sectors whilst currently sitting on the mentoring panel for a number of Local Enterprise Offices and also the Fáilte Ireland Mentoring and Training Panel. Whether you are looking for continuous support within your sales and marketing team, or you wish to avail of a review to define your objectives and develop your sales and marketing plan, Pearson Consulting will assist. Website design, content writing, google ad campaigns, social media support can all form part of the discussion and assistance provided to you.</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

Jane Manzor



Manzor Marketing

Social & Marketing

Jane Manzor has over 15 years' experience in the Food, Beverage and SME sectors. She has worked for a wide range of organisations throughout her career including companies such as Kepak, Unilever and Jacob Fruitfield up to senior management level.

A continuous learner, Jane holds several marketing and business qualifications. She has upskilled over the past few years – completing training in Digital Marketing (Masters DCU), Train the Trainer (Professional Development), and PR & Event Management (The Fitzwilliam Institute). She also holds a primary Bachelor of Commerce degree from UCG and a Higher Diploma in Marketing Practice from the Michael Smurfit Business School.

Coming from two family businesses Jane has been immersed from a young age in a strong business culture. As such she understands the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and growing businesses. Jane also speaks fluent French and has worked in International Markets (France) at the beginning of her career.

She is a passionate, organized and data obsessed marketer who is focused on results driven marketing.

Her key skills include:

- General project management and bringing projects alive.
- Strong on brand development and positioning.
- Brand
- Retailing
- Restaurants, Pubs, Hotels
- Gift shops
- Retailing
- Sales, forecasting, logistics

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Jill Lush</p>		<p>Lush Marketing</p>	<p>Marketing coaching, training and mentoring are three areas where Jill Lush is passionate. She brings over 20 years of corporate and small business experience to the business.</p> <p>Digital Marketing, developing businesses, among other things are among her passions. Jill holds a degree in Business Studies with Marketing from Dublin City University. She also holds a diploma and a postgraduate diploma in digital marketing awarded by the Digital Marketing Institute. Lush Marketing is a member of the Marketing Institute of Ireland. Lush Marketing is an accredited Thought Leader in Digital and Strategic Marketing – accredited by the All-Ireland Business All-Star Foundation. Jill Lush loves networking! It provides powerful support to any business owner. Jill is a member of the DLR Chamber and a number of women’s networks.</p>
<p>Aine Crilly</p>		<p>The HR Elephant</p>	
<p>Conor Hyde</p>		<p>BULLSEYE</p>	<p>Conor Hyde founded Bullseye Food Marketing in 2001 to service a growing demand for expert, best practice, business development and marketing support for owner-managed SME food companies on an outsourced basis.</p> <p>Conor has over twenty five years’ sales and marketing experience. He has held senior Marketing Manager positions with Golden Vale/Kerry and Dairygold Co-op. He has also successfully managed five of Ireland’s top 100 grocery brands including: Dairygold, EasiSingles, Galtee cheese, Golden Olive, and Charleville Cheese.</p> <p>Conor has lectured in food marketing at University College Cork, IMI (Irish Management Institute), BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara / Irish Sea Fisheries Board), Teagasc (The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority), ICOS (Irish Co-operative Organisation Society), SKILLSNET, Údarás na Gaeltachta and LEADER Networks. He is also an approved business mentor with Bord Bia (Irish Food Board), Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Office LEO, BIM, and the Irish Exporters Association (IEA).</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>John Collier</p>		<p>Foodovate Consulting</p>	<p>After 20 years experience of working with multinational food companies, and more recently in his own start-up food company supplying branded and own-branded desserts to the retail multiples in Ireland, Dr John Collier has seen and done it all! He has significant experience in New Product Development, Start-ups, Marketing and Digital Marketing, Production, Business Insights and Intelligence, Strategy Development, Innovation Strategies, Design Thinking and Creative Thinking.</p> <p>As well as having a Ph.D in Plant Biotechnology he also hold a MSc in Strategy & Innovation and a Masters in Digital Marketing</p>
<p>Matt Bentley</p>		<p>Bentley Marketing Consultancy</p>	<p>Achievement highlights include business turnaround performances at Green Isle, Nestlé cereal and Kellogg - Broad experience working with food business start-ups to businesses with sales over €200m - Successfully led Green Isle marketing department and international teams at Kellogg and Nestlé - Extensive food brand marketing, comms, digital, PR and innovation experience - Passionate about marketing and brands combined with ambition and a can do attitude that drives results</p>
<p>Carole Pradel</p>		<p>CP Quality Management</p>	<p>Experience in starting a food business or planning to do so with the regulatory aspects of the food business. This includes, but not limited to, legal requirements for product labelling, validating product shelf life, training requirements for food businesses including home businesses, ensuring production premises are compliant with the legislation, how to design a HACCP plan.</p>
<p>Peter Sheridan</p>		<p>PV Sheridan & Associates</p>	<p>Skilled and experienced business adviser helping entrepreneurs and their teams achieve their goals. Mentored early stage SME businesses dealing with growth or turnaround challenges . In dealings with the SME sector, meticulously planned strategies by focusing on areas of sectoral knowledge that assist clients in planning for future growth. Market research is the key to breaking into new markets . Good market knowledge of many sectors and keep abreast of new developments by attending seminars and courses relevant to my areas of expertise. Participated at adjudication level at the SFA Business Awards , LEO National Enterprise Awards , IBYE Awards and various Third Level College Projects . Strong interpersonal, reporting and communicating skills as evidenced by my various representative roles and submission of reports on client meetings and proposals for grant support.</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Mark Sobczyk (pronounced <i>sob~chik</i>)</p>		<p>brand engine ltd</p>	<p>Design Craft</p> <p>The company specialises in market research, the generation and development of competitive, compelling and lasting brand strategies, as well as developing strategies for creative design and communications across the board</p> <p>Mark now largely applies the accumulated breadth of market and brand experiences, in assisting smaller ventures, in his capacity as a mentor with DCCol, as well as South Dublin, Carlow, Louth and Meath LEOs. Projects to-date include brand strategy, web optimisation, helping businesses through a range of brand-building tasks, as well as guiding companies to achieving a more competitive and enduring brand presence in their market sector.</p> <p>Following a successful career in market research and strategic planning in UK and International advertising agencies, Mark founded <i>brand engine</i> in 1998. Now based in Dunboyne, the company has had the privilege of working with a wide array of Irish brands for over twenty years, across many industrial and service sectors, including:</p> <p>SuperValu, Bank of Ireland, NSAI, Irish Distillers, Fáilte Ireland's: Discover Ireland brand; Lakelands & Waterways; The Boyne Valley and Connemara, as well as Kilkenny Arts Festival, BIM, Musgraves, Bord Bia, Mr Jeffares Blackcurrants, Kerry Foods and Soul Engraver plus many, many one-to-one and group mentoring engagements and alongside other blue-chip brands such as: Unilever, Carlsberg, Allied Breweries, Nestlé, BMW, Pernod, Electrolux, JVC, Tiger Beer, Philips, and Waitrose</p>
<p>Joanne O'Brien</p>		<p>Applejack Marketing</p>	<p>Applejack Marketing is a digital marketing agency based in Kildare that helps small to medium sized businesses kickstart or improve their online presence. Our aim is to help to get your products or services noticed by customers. Specialising in digital marketing, we strive to ensure that when a potential customer is looking for your product that they can easily find yours.</p>
<p>Stephen Kearney</p>	<p>Cosmos.ie</p>	<p>Stephen is a highly accomplished Marketeer, Mentor and Consultant who specialises in assisting those who are making the transition from the initial stages of start-up to becoming well established entrepreneurs. Stephen has worked in the private sector for large multinational brands, leading</p>	

Mentor Panel 2021-2022



marketing campaigns to achieve results. His qualifications include a Masters Degree in Marketing practice, A Degree in Marketing, A Diploma in E-business and a Certificate in digital Marketing. He is a manager with vast practical experience and qualification who has a demonstrated track record of building and establishing strong sales campaigns which achieve profitable results.

Stephen has proven expertise in driving digital marketing campaigns through actively engaging with people in the process of improving and maintain market share. Proven ability of driving change and leading internet development projects within the tech industry. Ability to lead, manage and motivate.

Stephen combines his education and qualifications with over 16 years of experience both with a large Irish Multinational and in his own business. Stephen is a senior lecturer at Dublin Business School. He also has experience of training business courses with TalentPool on programmes such as Marketing fundamentals, Sales programmes, Search Engine Optimisation and analytics. Stephen is now the director and owner of the Cosmos web group of companies.

Krystle Foley



Fusion Digital

Krystle Foley is the founder and Managing Director of Fusion Digital. She has studied and worked in the field of marketing for over 15 years. In 2016, having gained wide-ranging events and marketing experience in the retail, charity, financial and software sectors, she started Event Hub, a digital marketing and events agency, the forerunner to Fusion Digital.

With a BBS (Hons) in Services Marketing from IT Carlow and a MSc (Hons) in Marketing from DCU under her belt, Krystle continued to study part-time while working and graduated with a diploma in PR from the Fitzwilliam Institute and a diploma in Digital Marketing and Strategy from Dublin Business School.

Carey Ann Lordan

Red PR

Carey-Ann (MPRII) is a communications specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the public relations, marketing, event management, corporate coaching, mentoring, training and

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

			<p>communications industry. In a mentoring capacity Carey-Ann has worked with LEO for the following clients: Tipperary Food Producers Network, Red Nose Wine, Just Add You, South Tipperary Dementia Project, Heartwise and To Crown a King Festival.</p>
<p>Niall McManus</p>		<p>EarthRoute Ltd</p>	<p>Over 25 years raw materials and sustainability industry experience in southern and East Africa, Southeast Asia, North America and Europe. Member of the Irish Manufacturing Research CIRCULÉIRE's 2020 Thematic Working Groups Industrial Symbiosis on the Circular Economy & Circular Procurement. Invited contributor to the OECD Dialogue on Circular Economy in Ireland hosted through DECC & EPA. Associate Panel member for Centre for Design C4D.ie fostering circular thinking and design. European Executive Agency for SMEs business coach for tech start-ups. Acknowledged raw materials expert in Circular Economy and Digital Transformation with the European Commission. Start-up founder for SaaS in communications and business information. Business Coach and Mentor for Circular Economy and alignment to Sustainable Development Goals with Start Ups. Leader of multi-disciplinary teams and cultural diversity. Proven application of technical expertise in evaluation and due diligence. Track record in strategy for commercialisation of innovative ideas. Career in international business development and entering new markets.</p>
<p>Declan Deasy</p>		<p>Decteck Ltd</p>	<p>Practised Consultant and Project Manager specialising in Operations, SAP ERP Systems, MES systems, integrated marking system including serialisation and Implementation specialist with Senior Logistics professional experience. I am degree qualified with over 30 years specific Supply Chain experience working for leading Multinational organisations in Pharmaceutical, Food and FMCG industries. I am an experienced senior manager and change agent with broad knowledge and experience, both strategic and operational of the key functions and processes within manufacturing and shared services industry. Strong desire to succeed and the motivation to adapt and evolve to changing circumstances. Proven interpersonal and communication skills and an effective team leader at all levels bringing a strong "Hands On" results orientated approach to any task.</p>
<p>Alison Cummins</p>		<p>AC Insights</p>	<p>Sales-driven, quality and customer focused I work in a busy environment where excellent customer service is paramount. I am experienced in working with state agencies., raising finance, budgeting,</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022



costing, finance, accounts, KPI's, purchasing, staff management, Food safety quality systems, NPD and devising the right marketing initiatives to create brand awareness in target markets. I am a proactive, highly motivated, ambitious professional who achieves results and delivers projects through people and implementing strategic plans. Having recently achieved First Class Honours in a Level 8 in Food Science and Technology I now mentor start-up and SME businesses and facilitate them to bring their concepts and ideas to the market. I have real-life, hands-on technical experience and am focused on supporting fellow manufacturers, SME's and micro businesses.

Gordon Naughton



Tactive Commercial Advice Ltd

Gordon is the Founder CEO of Tactive, which is an outsourced Finance Director and CEO advisory service.
Tactive specialises in fundraising, negotiations, accessing grants, business plans, project appraisals, and business strategy.
Gordon is also the deputy chairperson of Chartered Accountants Interim Managers.

Conrad Digan



C Digan Consulting Ltd

Mentor covers:
Retail strategy - review your current business plan and set you up for continued growth
Driving sales - footfall, conversion, basket size and repeat customers
Improve your omnichannel customer experience - map the customer journey
Store layout and visual merchandising - walk your shop in your customers shoes
Consistent retail standards including space, range and display
Pricing and promotions strategy
Retail operating processes
Marketing - fit for your customers and business

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Mags Boland Murphy</p> 	<p>Bofin Consultancy</p>	<p>Mags Boland-Murphy, All Star awarded, accredited and experienced tourism & hospitality consultant, national event manager, business sales, marketing & media professional, established Bofin Consultancy in 2011. The business provides a full suite of professional business growth consultancy services including; profit planning, business development, sales, marketing reach, tourism consultancy and tailored consultancy solutions specific to the client’s business aims, objectives and requirements.</p>
<p>Karan Thompson</p> 	<p>Karan Thompson Consulting Limited</p>	<p>Karan Thompson is Director of Karan Thompson Consulting Limited (KTCL) established in 2001. A professional with significant experience across the culture, tourism and hospitality, education, design, creative industries, retail and business sectors. Karan’s network of contacts and excellent working relationship with industry personnel ensures that her industry knowledge is relevant to the current and emerging needs of her clients. Prior to establishing KTCL she worked in both the public and private sectors, including management of the National Concert Hall and VP for Global Customer Services for telecommunication company - Braxtel Communications (USA/Ireland), Information and client services at the Irish Management Institute and previously as a lecturer and teacher at second and third level. As director of a microenterprise she has direct experience of dealing with the challenges facing SMEs in the current Covid-19 crisis and a working knowledge of Government supports from Revenue, LEOs, Local Authority, Arts Council and other relevant Government Departments to support and sustain businesses during this challenging time.</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Allyson English</p> 	<p>Jigsaw VAE</p>	<p>After establishing the company in March 2017, Managing Director, Allyson English, attained a place on the Enterprise Ireland Approved Suppliers listing. Since then, Allyson has strived to build and maintain relationships with various Local Enterprise Offices throughout Ireland, successfully delivering and working with many SME's from a variety of industries, ranging from Manufacturing, Information Technology, Retail, Hospitality, Service Providers and everything in between.</p> <p>Allyson has over thirty years' industry experience in Accounting, Financial Management and Operations. Her achievements to date include:</p> <p>An approved provider with the Local Enterprise Office, Lean Business Ireland, and Lean Construction Ireland</p> <p>A member of the IMCA - Institute of Management Consultants.</p> <p>BA Degree – Business Management – Herriot Watt University Edinburgh</p> <p>Green Belt in Lean Management & Six Sigma</p> <p>HND Accounting (Equivalent of Accounting Technician) – Reid Kerr College</p> <p>QQI Level 6 Training Delivery & Evaluation</p> <p>N.E.B.S. Supervisory Management</p> <p>As a company, V.A.E. Consultancy endeavours to deliver the highest standard of training and mentoring, ensuring our clients are given every opportunity to grow lean and witness the results of their journey in every aspect of their business. It is these results that drive V.A.E. to continue to provide quality training and mentoring to all their clients.</p>
<p>Maurice Bergin</p> 	<p>HSC Ltd</p>	<p>Maurice worked in the Hospitality Sector since 1977 which included time in Hotels, restaurants, guesthouses, marketing, consulting, lecturing, food hygiene management and latterly as a Resource Efficiency and Environmental Management specialist within the sector. Maurice now runs GreenHospitality.ie which offers certification to hospitality businesses across Ireland. I also operate a Responsible Travel website (GreenTravel.ie), Consulting Business (HSC Ltd and Green Trading Company) and a Green Purchasing website for the business sector - enviroshop.ie. I am a Fellow of the Irish Hospitality Institute and spent many years as a branch and national council member of the IHF.</p>

Mentor Panel 2021-2022

<p>Phil Walker</p>  A black and white portrait of Phil Walker, a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, standing in front of a stone wall.	<p>Eco Merit Ltd</p>	<p>An engineer who started his career in the UK shipbuilding industry. Later in South Korea and China he developed quality and environmental certification businesses for an international certification body. He designed and launched EcoMerit in 2009 and has progressively developed the business since that time. To date, he has assisted more than 150 Irish business to improve their sustainability. Phil holds a first class honours degree in Naval Architecture, an M.Sc. in Production Technology, a Diploma in Welding Technology and a Fellowship in Manufacturing Management.</p>
<p>Deirdre Lane</p>  A color portrait of Deirdre Lane, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a light blue top, against a plain white background.	<p>Shamrock Spring</p>	<p>Deirdre studied International Commerce and Applied Marketing and Circular Economies. She studied and worked in the Fashion Central Paris and the innovation and craft centres of London, Milan and Scandinavia.</p> <p>Building on from her extensive career in establishing Global Commodity Markets, she continues to deliver transparency and economic growth in regenerative design training in the Circular Economy. Weaving a craft cluster to identify concepts and principles of RePair, Recycling, Modular devices, and new ways to design in sustainable Circular Economy solutions by eliminating pollution and waste resources.</p>