



ENSURING YOUR SMALL BUSINESS IS BREXIT READY

There's never been more supports available to small businesses.
Talk to your Local Enterprise Office today to ensure you are Brexit Ready

Brexit supports for your small business

The 31 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are the 'first-stop-shop' for anyone seeking information and supports on starting or growing a small business in Ireland.

As hubs of expert advice, information and practical supports, dedicated Local Enterprise Office teams can help you manage your Brexit response through:

- Customs training & financial assistance
- Readiness checkers to help with planning
- One-to-one Brexit mentoring
- Specialist training and consultancy
- Financial supports
- Access to world-wide support networks

Customs Training & Financial Assistance

Prepare Your Business for Customs Training

These one-day interactive online workshops, run regionally by Local Enterprise Offices, will provide businesses with a better understanding of the potential impacts, formalities and procedures to be adopted when trading with a country which is outside the Single Market and Custom Unions (a "Third Country"). This will occur when the UK leaves the European Union on December 31st 2020. Open to all businesses, these workshops will cover areas such as what export and import procedures apply, how tariffs work and how to correctly classify goods.

Brexit: Customs Insights course (online)

The **Customs Insights** course from Enterprise Ireland helps businesses understand the key customs concepts, documentation and processes required to move goods from, to and through the UK. The online course, which is open to companies of all sizes, will provide learners with a firm understanding of the customs implications for their business and the options from Revenue to make this process more efficient.

Ready for Customs Grant

The **Ready for Customs Grant** from Enterprise Ireland will assist your business to increase its capacity to manage the customs process after 1st January 2021.

Up to €9,000 is available for each new full-time employee engaged in customs work. This grant contributes to recruitment costs, employee costs and provision of IT infrastructure. If you employ a new person to deal with customs on a part-time basis a grant of up to €4,500 is available. (Eligibility criteria applies)

Brexit Readiness Checker

Enterprise Ireland's Brexit Readiness Check is an online tool that will assist your business get ready for the 1st January. Companies complete a short online survey, and then receive an individual report highlighting the areas they need to take action on. The report also provides resources available from State agencies that will help you get Brexit ready. The Readiness Checker covers vital issues such as customs, VAT, finance and currency management, movement of people and strategic sourcing.

One-to-One Brexit Mentoring

Brexit Mentoring

The **Brexit Mentor Programme** is designed to support LEO clients identify key areas of exposure and will assist in developing robust strategies to address issues and maximise potential opportunities. The Programme matches up the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with small business owner/ managers who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance on planning for January 1 2021. The mentor contributes independent, informed observation and advice to aid decision making across areas such as supply chain, currency, market diversification, financial planning etc.

Specialist Training and Consultancy

LEAN for Micro

Under the **LEAN for Micro** initiative LEO clients are supported to identify and implement practices to boost competitiveness, increase performance and profitability as well as building resilience within their companies. Under this programme, clients can avail of five days of consultancy with a Lean Expert (a qualified practitioner), who will work with the company to introduce lean principles, undertake a specific cost reduction project and assist the company in benchmarking its performance.

Financial supports

Technical Assistance for Micro-Exporters (TAME) Grant

The **TAME** grant supports clients to explore and develop new export market opportunities, such as participation in international trade fairs and development of export-related marketing materials and websites. With a focus on helping companies to diversify, this scheme is a matched-funding opportunity with up to €2,500 available.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme

An initiative under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the **Trading Online Voucher Scheme** helps small businesses trade more online to boost their sales and reach new markets. This scheme provides funding of up to €2,500, with training and further supports provided by Local Enterprise Offices. Funding can be used towards eligible costs such as digital marketing strategies, e-commerce websites or app development. Companies can also apply for a second voucher if eligible for additional online improvements.

Financial Assistance

For existing companies and potential start-ups that meet eligibility criteria (such as employing 10 or fewer people with the potential for growth and job creation), Local Enterprise Offices can also offer three types of financial supports to help manage Brexit responses:

- Priming Grants*
- Business Expansion Grants*
- Feasibility Study Grants*

*Further eligibility criteria apply.

Agile Innovation Fund

The **Agile Innovation Fund** has been developed by Enterprise Ireland to support product, service and process innovation to build competitive advantage. The key benefit of this support is that it allows for a simple application process and delivers a faster response time from application to approval.

The Agile Innovation Fund is also open to eligible Local Enterprise Office clients and it allows companies to access up to 50% in support towards innovation projects with a total cost of up to €300,000.



Access
Worldwide
Networks

Microfinance Loans (through Microfinance Ireland)

Local Enterprise Offices can work with clients on their applications to **Microfinance Ireland (MFI)** for small business loans up to €25,000 (unsecured). Loans for commercially viable proposals can be used to help fund start-up costs, working capital or business expansion. By applying for an MFI small business loan through a Local Enterprise Office, clients can avail of a 1% reduction in the interest rate charged.



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Intertrade Ireland

Intertrade Ireland provides a range of services to businesses on the island of Ireland including information and support through voucher funding, a tailor-made on-line learning tool, a tariff checker, glossary of key Brexit terminology, research, networking and information events. Further information and eligibility criteria are available at intertradeireland.com/brexit

Access to world-wide support networks

Enterprise Europe Network

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises that have international growth ambitions. The EEN is active in more than 60 countries around the globe, bringing 3,000 experts together from more than 600 member organisations. Through the Local Enterprise Offices, the EEN can help small businesses get expert advice, source technologies and identify trusted business partners.

Funding for Local Enterprise Offices, which work in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and local authorities, is provided by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation



Local Enterprise Office
Making It Happen

Your Local Enterprise Office: Supporting your Small Business through Brexit



CHANGE IS COMING
JAN 2021

Your Local Enterprise Office –

Carlow	Cavan	Clare	Cork City	Cork North & West
Cork South	Donegal	Dublin City	Dublin Fingal	Dublin South
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	Limerick	Longford	Louth	Mayo
Meath	Monaghan	Galway	Kerry	Kildare
Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim	Offaly	Roscommon
Sligo	Tipperary	Waterford	Westmeath	Wexford
Wicklow				

LocalEnterprise.ie/Brexit



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