

***National Enterprise Awards 2017***

***Local Enterprise Office South Dublin***

***Eligibility Criteria***

* Applicants must be current clients of the South Dublin Local Enterprise Office (LEO) or transferred to Enterprise Ireland within the last 12 months;
* All applicant businesses must employ ten or less employees;
* All applicant businesses must have been in receipt of direct LEO supports under one or more of the following interventions:
  + Grant aid
  + Mentoring Programme
  + Trading Online Voucher Scheme
  + Participation on LEO Management Development Programme e.g. Accelerate
  + MicroFinance Ireland Scheme
* A signed emailed copy of the Application Form, a Business Plan, together with the most recent financial statements ***are mandatory***.
* The following awards will be announced and presented at the South Dublin Final on March 9th. There is a prize fund of €12,500 to be shared amongst the category winners.
* Overall Winner (to be sent to the National Finals): €3000, and €2,000 LEO training and mentoring voucher
* Export Award: €1,500 plus €1,000 LEO training and mentoring voucher
* Best Start-Up: €1,500 plus €1,000 LEO training and mentoring voucher
* Innovation Award: €1,500 plus €1,000 LEO training and mentoring voucher

1. The Overall Winner will go forward to represent South Dublin at the National Final. Judging for the National Finals will take place at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath the 28th/29th March and 11th/12th April. Each finalist will be afforded the opportunity to present an overview of their business by way of PowerPoint to the judging panel and this will be followed by an interview.

* The National winners will be announced at an evening event on Thursday May 25th 2017 in the Mansion House, Dublin.
* **CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 5pm Friday February 24th 2017**
* **APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:** [**info@leo.sdublincoco.ie**](mailto:info@leo.sdublincoco.ie) **(signed copies please)**

***Please mark PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL***