



# Supporting your Small Business through Brexit

There's never been more support available to small businesses.  
Talk to your Local Enterprise Office about managing your Brexit response

## 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:

- Scorecards to help with planning
- One-to-one mentoring
- Specialist training and consultancy
- Financial supports
- Access to worldwide support networks

## Scorecards to help with planning

### Brexit SME Scorecard

The **Brexit SME Scorecard** online tool is an important first step in helping small businesses think about how their businesses may be impacted by Brexit. Developed by Enterprise Ireland, questions in the scorecard are built around six key business pillars to help SMEs self-diagnose how prepared they are. A comprehensive report is automatically generated to assist with planning and to highlight what further supports are available.

## One-to-one mentoring

### Brexit Mentoring

Under the **Brexit Mentor Programme**, clients work with an experienced mentor on a one-to-one basis to identify key areas of exposure within their business. With advice and guidance from their mentor, clients develop strategies that are more robust, which address issues and maximise potential opportunities around Brexit.

## Specialist training and consultancy

### Workshops: Prepare Your Business for Customs

These one-day interactive 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’).

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.

### LEAN for Micro

**LEAN for Micro** has been adapted by Enterprise Ireland for Local Enterprise Office clients to help small businesses 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.



Explore  
New  
Markets



Prepare Your  
Business for  
Customs

## 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 is a matched-funding opportunity with up to €2,500 available, 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.

## 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 new 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.

### Microfinance Loans (through Microfinance Ireland)

Local Enterprise Offices can work with clients on their applications to **Microfinance Ireland (MFI)** for small



Access  
Worldwide  
Networks

business loans of between €2,000 and €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 the Local Enterprise Office, clients can avail of a 1% reduction in the interest rate charged.

### Brexit: Start To Plan Voucher Scheme (through InterTradelreland)

The InterTradelreland **Start To Plan Voucher Scheme** offers SMEs advice and guidance to help navigate their way through Brexit. The vouchers offer 100% financial supports of up to £2,000/€2,250 [inclusive of VAT], towards professional advice in relation to Brexit matters.

This support can help businesses get advice on specific issues, such as the movement of labour, goods, services, customs, logistics and financial issues such as VAT and currency management.

## Access to worldwide 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.

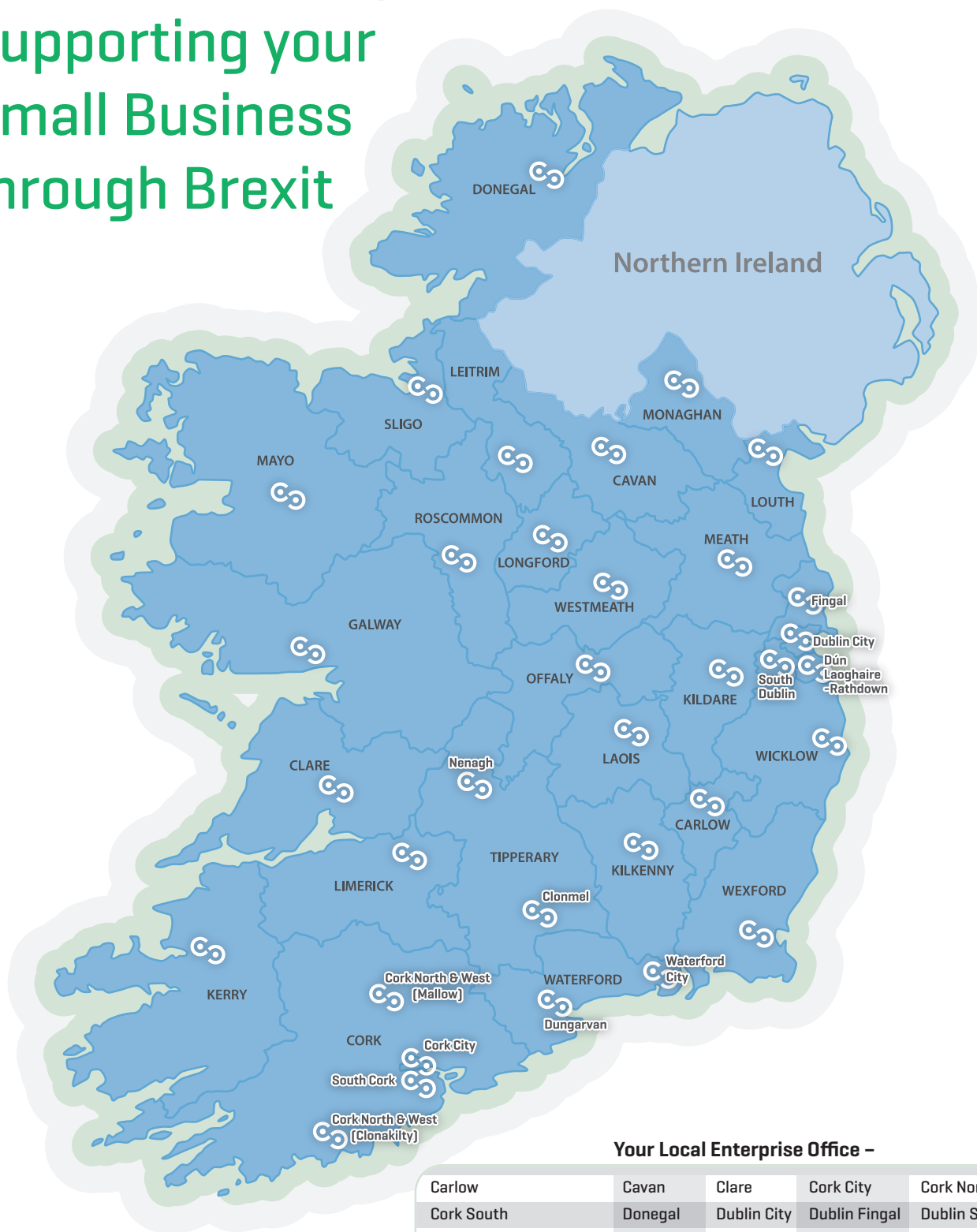
Through the Local Enterprise Offices, the EEN can help small businesses get expert advice, source technologies and identify trusted business partners.

**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



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				



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

In partnership with



Udarás Áitiúla Éireann  
Local Authorities Ireland