

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE WESTMEATH

A photograph of three business professionals in a meeting. A man in the center, wearing glasses and a light blue shirt, is smiling and gesturing with his hands. A woman on the left, also wearing glasses, is smiling and looking towards him. A man on the right is partially visible, looking towards the center. The background is bright and out of focus.

LEAN FOR MICRO

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Over the past 3 years, Westmeath businesses have saved a combined total of over €2 million through our Lean programmes!

Lean For Micro is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector – **it is not just for manufacturing companies.**

Gain a Practical Understanding of Lean Benefits

Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation. In a nutshell, Lean is about doing things quicker, better and saving costs. Lean strives to remove waste and to continually improve a company.

So, don't delay and join the thousands of companies all over Ireland who have successfully engaged in LEAN business programmes and recorded significant gains, including:

- **Productivity increases 20%**
- **Sales increases 40%**
- **Delivery adherence improvements 43%**
- **Product & Service quality improvements 30%**
- **Employment increases 11%**

How does it work?

- The first step is to talk to LEO Westmeath. Due to the effects of Covid-19 on small businesses, the fees for Lean for Micro have been suspended and the cost of undertaking a Lean for Micro assignment is €5,000+VAT will be fully covered by LEO Westmeath.
- The company selects the Lean Service Provider it wishes to work with on its project. Assignments will be carried out over a 6 to 8 week period and will include 5.5 consultancy days with in-company visits to each business scheduled depending on each situation.

How it works...

The Lean Service Provider will visit the company, evaluate its processes, and speak with the company's managers about challenges faced by the business and the improvement project opportunities to be carried out over several weeks.

Several Lean tools and techniques will be applied as appropriate to the needs of the business and improvement project at-hand. Additionally, management and staff will be trained and mentored on Lean. At the end of the engagement with the Lean Service Provider, a final report, case study, and metrics, are sent to the LEO.

Who is it for? It is aimed at owner / managers and key staff members of any Westmeath businesses who wish to gain an introduction to lean concepts and allow them to gain a practical understanding of lean principles by undertaking a focused assignment with expert mentoring support. The scheme will be available to a limited number of Westmeath businesses in 2022.

Case Study: Whelehan's Pharmacy, Mullingar



'Before beginning the Programme, we had never heard of Lean and were mistakenly under the impression that it was only applicable to manufacturing businesses. Happily, we were proved wrong and could see very quickly that the initiative could equally be rolled-out to services businesses. Wherever there is a process there is waste, and wherever there is waste there is an opportunity for a Lean project – no matter what the sector.'

- *Whelehan's Pharmacy*

The Lean improvements and impact included overall savings in the admin processes that resulted in an increase in capacity of 20%, and the standardisation of work at the dispensing workstations with the introduction of individual PCs and tools to carry out the job resulted in a reduction of 20% in turnaround times.

With the introduction of tighter controls on stock management and improved purchasing processes, this too has led to reduced costs both in monetary terms and in time savings. One of the biggest improvements we have seen has been in our admin process. We have not only balanced the line of work here and increased capacity, but we have introduced better ways of working and communicating with each other which in turn has allowed us to provide a better service to the customer.

Making It Happen

If your business is interested in applying for the Lean for Micro programme, please contact localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie or call (044) 9338945



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