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Two County Winners Reach 'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur' National Final

Two young Wicklow entrepreneurs won a place at the first-ever national final of 'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur' held in December 2014 having beaten off stiff competition at both County and Regional competitions.

Shane Byrne and Philip Kirwan from Show Off based in Wicklow town won the Regional Best Established Business Award. Show Off had already won their category and a €20,000 investment at the County Wicklow IBYE competition and in addition were crowned Wicklows Best Young Entrepreneur. Philip and Shane from Showoff, an App development company are developing a unique offering aimed at supporting independent living, health and well-being through the use of mobile and wearable technologies.

In the highly contested Start Up category, Michael Noble from Noble Education based in Enniskerry won the Regional Best Start up Award having already won the competition at County level including a €20,000 investment from the Local Enterprise Office in his internationally traded business, which develops mutually rewarding collaborations between European and South East Asian Higher Education Institutions.

Also a winner at County level was David Costello of Better Talk who won the Best New Idea Category with his business idea for a mobile based application which provides a platform that will change the way people discuss subjects online and allow businesses to more directly and effectively target their customers. The prize fund of €10,000 for the Best Idea will be used by David to bring his offering to market launch.

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition is an integral part of the Action Plan for Jobs 2014 and is supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation through the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country.



Winners Wicklow Best Young Entrepreneur
Michael Noble, Noble Education, Shane Byrne & Philip Kirwan,
Showoff, Dave Costello, Better Talk



Regional Winners IBYE
Michael Noble Winner Best Start Up and Shane Byrne Winner Best
Established pictured with Sheelagh Daly at the Regional Finals

Public Procurement Seminar a big draw for Wicklow SMEs

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow had the distinction of being the first in Ireland to hold a seminar to help local businesses



Sheelagh Daly, Fiona Flynn, Joanne Gillen and Fearghal Reidy pictured at the Public Procurement Seminar

more easily access contracts with public sector bodies. Organised by the LEO Wicklow, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, InterTradelreland and the Local Government Strategic Procurement Centre, the seminar drew a substantial crowd of small business owners to the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. The Minister of State with special responsibility for public procurement, and a Wicklow local, Simon Harris TD actively supports initiatives such as these to get SMEs involved in public sector tendering.

Fiona Flynn, Procurement Officer at Wicklow County Council, announced the new online registration facility for suppliers interested in providing goods or services to the Local Authority. InterTradelreland provided information on a brand new pilot training programme to follow on from the seminar, which will be run in conjunction with the Local Enterprise

Office and will be called Go-2-Tender Lite. If you would like any information about public procurement for SMEs you can contact the LEO Wicklow on 0404 30800 or email enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie.

Appleberry Press wins coveted Spider Award

Jane McCoy's vision for her Appleberry Studio is to bring top class wedding stationery to Europe, one amazing design and one caring, personal consultation at a time. In November the company won a coveted Eircom Spider award for User Experience for its website. Speaking about the Award, Jane said "For us, this is a really important achievement as our website has been recognised as excelling in user centred design which was one of the most important aspects of the build when we were developing the website. We wanted to put our customers first by offering them a user friendly website that gives them the ability to browse, order samples or purchase their full order on all devices including smartphones, tablets or a home computer. We couldn't have done this without our dedicated customers who ultimately are our users and whose continual support and feedback has helped to shape our website as you see it today." *For more information see www.appleberrypress.com*



Winner Eircom Spider Awards
Jonathan Ruane, Ailbhe Cronin, Rory O'Keeffe,
Jane McCoy, Jason Ruane from Appleberry Press

New Business Network for West Wicklow

A group of business people led by Killian McGreal of McGreals Pharmacy have combined forces to set up a Business Network for West Wicklow. The objective of the new network is to create a forum where business owners can come together to discuss common issues and opportunities, learn from each other and participate in activities they identify as being useful to the development of their business. LEO Wicklow is supporting the formation of the Network and the first meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th January at 7pm in Tulfarris Hotel. All businesses are welcome to attend.

For more information or to confirm your attendance contact Tamara: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

Microfinance Ireland Loans

LEO Wicklow is continuing to assist small businesses of all types to access business loans of up to €25,000 through the Microfinance Ireland initiative. See www.microfinanceireland.ie for details on the loan offer and the application process.



The Network of Entrepreneurial Women (N.E.W.)



Sarah Bohan, MD Engage Ireland, addressing the Wicklow Network of Entrepreneurial Women at a recent meeting

The long established Network of Entrepreneurial Women, is changing format in 2015, and moving to the Glenview Hotel. Meetings will focus on active networking, sharing of business information amongst members, and peer to peer learning.

The first meeting of 2015 will take place on Wednesday 11th February. Those already on the N.E.W. contact list will automatically be informed. Any female entrepreneurs in Co. Wicklow wishing to be included on the list for meeting notifications should email lfleming@leo.wicklowcoco.ie



European Enterprise Network

The LEO Wicklow is set to become a partner in the European Enterprise Network for the new programme 2015 - 2021.

The Network provides information on EU legislation and funding, helps companies find business partners, especially in other countries, and offers advice on how to develop an innovative idea. The Network can also help to maximise your chances of success when you're tendering for EU contracts or funding.

The Wicklow LEO will be part of a sub-region partner area that includes Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford and Carlow Local Enterprise Offices. A regional Awareness & Information seminar will be held in Spring 2015. If you would like more information please contact Tamara at enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

More information on the EEN can be found at www.een-ireland.ie



Business Support on Your Doorstep

Wicklow Companies exhibit at Ploughing Championships LEO Village

Some of Ireland's finest products developed by Local Enterprise Office supported companies were on display at the National Ploughing Championships 2014 as part of a sales drive to support SME's in Ireland. Included in the Local Enterprise Village were Miena's Irish Handmade Nougat located in The Glen of Imaal, The Birds and the Teas located in Wicklow town, Janets County Fayre from Kilcoole and Wicklow Rapeseed Oil, Wicklow town, pictured with Vibeke Delahunt from LEO Wicklow.

Speaking about the village, Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise, said "The National Ploughing Championships is an important platform for small and medium sized enterprises throughout the region. At the heart of the Local Enterprise Office remit is the facilitation of programmes which allow companies to develop and grow and the LEO in County Wicklow sees client participation in the event as a significant opportunity to showcase their competitive offering to the local, national and international visitors who attend"



New SME Online Tool

There are over 80 different Government supports for Irish start-ups and small businesses. This Supporting SMEs Online Guide is to help Irish start-ups and small businesses navigate the range of Government supports. It offers an easy way to access a list of government supports that may be applicable to your business: www.localenterprise.ie/smeonlinetool



Local Enterprise Office Wicklow Open Day

LEO Wicklow is running an open day in Wicklow County Campus on Wednesday 11th March 2015. Businesses will be able to speak to organisations that provide services to business, avail of business advice and attend seminars on improving sales. The open day focuses on local service provision especially all aspects of Wicklow Local Authorities services that concern SMEs such as public procurement, rates setting and collection, signage, planning development, licenses for street vendors. Other relevant agencies such as Intreo, County Wicklow Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and Micro Finance Ireland will have a stand at

the open day to answer questions.

If you have any specific business questions you can avail of the business expertise of our business advisors during the free 30 minute business advice clinics, you can also attend two free Seminars on making that all important sale.

Seminar One: The Secret to Successful Online Trading -
Seminar Two: How to Generate and Close Sales.

Attendance is free of charge, for more information log on to www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow

Showcase 2015

Again in 2015, the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow will support five local crafts businesses to exhibit at the renowned 'Showcase' Exhibition at the RDS, from 18th - 21st January.

The Local Enterprise Offices nationally sponsor the balcony area, known as the 'Enterprise Zone' to encourage newly established businesses to profile themselves to national and international trade buyers. Judy Davis of Wicklow based Shuttleknit (pictured) is one of the five Wicklow clients exhibiting.



Shuttleknit
designer knitwear



Hi Start Programme open for applications

The Hi-Start 'Get your Business Investor Ready' Programme is a short, highly focussed workshop and one-on-one support process aimed at ambitious start-ups who are targeting international markets. If your business requires high level support to build a platform for successful long term development and to crystallize and deliver a powerful investor pitch then Hi-Start is for you.

Running March to October 2015 in Dublin, Hi-Start has been developed and part-funded by the Dublin & Wicklow Local

Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland.

The programme will be delivered by the highly acclaimed world-class business development consultant John McMahon, Forum 21 Ltd.

Closing date for applications is 19th January.
Contact Angela Tynan: atynan@leo.dlrccoco.ie
Tel: 01 4948400 - Mobile: 087 2235269

Partnerships to support business

The LEO Wicklow has adopted protocols with several partners aimed at improving the experience for businesses. Part of the First Stop Shop initiative, the protocols provide for better exchange of information as well as accurate referrals and signposting. The objective is that agencies will work closely together to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of small businesses. To date

protocols have been signed with the Department of Social Protection, Microfinance Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Credit Review Office, Revenue Commissioners and Skillsnet.



Spring Summer 2015 Training Programme Now Available

A lot of the old training favourites are back and we are constantly updating our courses & content to what you want & need. Log on to www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/ to see our new schedule and book your place!



Clár Chistí Struchtúracha agus Infheistíochta AE na hÉireann 2014 - 2020

Cómhaoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann agus ag an Aontas Eorpach



European Union
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