



# Funding for businesses in Ireland

**Your survival guide to planning to fund your business. Funding will rarely come from one source and many businesses will go through various levels of funding over the course of several years. Below are a few options you can consider.**

Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) provide a range of financial supports designed to assist with the establishment and/or growth of enterprises (limited company, individuals/sole trader, cooperatives and partnerships) employing up to ten people. There a great place to start and offer a variety of financial supports available through the 31 offices across the country.

Everything from feasibility grants to helping you research market demand and sustainability of your potential

product or service (up to €20,000), through to priming grants and business expansion grants. The only issue with the LEO grants is that the grants only cover approximately 50% of the costs which can be a challenge for many early-stage businesses.

#### Priming Grants

A Priming Grant is a business start-up grant, available to micro enterprises within the first 18 months of start-up. Priming grants may be available for sole traders, partnerships or limited companies that fulfil the criteria.

#### Business Expansion Grants

The Business Expansion Grant is designed to assist the business in its growth phase after the initial 18 month start-up period. Business Expansion grants may be awarded to sole traders, partnerships or limited companies that fulfil the criteria.

#### European Globalisation Fund EGF

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) was

established to support workers made redundant in EU member states as a result of the adverse effects of globalisation and, latterly, the effects of the global economic and financial crisis.

#### Technical assistance for Micro Exporters

Technical Assistance for Micro Exporter's Grant enables clients to explore and develop new market opportunities. This grants part-funds the costs that can be incurred in investigating and researching export markets, e.g. exhibiting at Trade Fairs, preparing marketing material and developing websites specifically targeting overseas markets. For more information on LEO support visit there website [www.localenterprise.ie](http://www.localenterprise.ie)

#### Micro finance Ireland

Microfinance Ireland is a not-for-profit lender established by the government to provide additional lending to startups and SMEs with