

18,600 JOBS CREATED OVER FIVE YEARS BY LEOs

Since the Local Enterprise Offices were first established in 2014, they have distributed €81.5 million worth of direct financial assistance to over 5000 small businesses and entrepreneurs, stimulating job creation in communities across the country.

Established in 2014 by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the 31 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) nationwide are operated in a partnership between Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities.

Devised as a ‘first-stop shop’ for those looking to start a business or for small businesses looking for support, they have supported the creation of over 18,600 jobs nationwide with 144,830 entrepreneurs and business people trained in a range of skills during the last five years.

At an event to celebrate the fifth anniversary of LEOs in Ireland, the figures were announced by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Pat Breen, Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection in Russborough House in Wicklow.

During that time, 40,577 people have received mentoring support through their LEO, while over 17,500 have taken a ‘Start Your Own Business’ course.

Minister Heather Humphreys TD, said: “Since their inception in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have played a hugely significant role in generating indigenous employment

across the country. There are now over 36,000 people employed by LEO-supported companies, small Irish businesses that are creating jobs in their own towns and villages. Supporting regional enterprise is a big priority of mine as Minister and it’s for this reason that I allocated an additional €5 million to the LEOs in Budget 2019.”

A range of measures in Future Jobs Ireland 2019 support balanced regional development and the LEOs are set to play a central role in the success of the initiative.

For 2019, the focus will be on strengthening the capacity of LEOs to provide a comprehensive suite of supports to indigenous Irish businesses and entrepreneurs.

Minister Pat Breen, TD, said; “Small businesses are the heartbeat of the Irish economy and they make a huge impact to local economies across the country. The LEOs have become the most important resource for any entrepreneur or small business looking for support or training.

“With over 144,000 trained and 40,000 receiving specialist mentoring, the LEOs are providing these businesses with the skills and knowledge to start and grow, to create jobs and generate significant revenue for the Irish economy.”

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICES (2014 TO 2019)

- 18,640 – Jobs created by LEO-supported clients
- 5,080 – Projects approved for funding by the LEOs
- €81.5m – Direct financial assistance to LEO clients
- 17,587 – Taken Start Your Own Business with their LEO
- 144,830 – Engaged in training with their LEO
- 7,371 – Entrants to Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE)
- 752 – Aailed of Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME) grant
- 40,577 – Aailed of specialist mentoring through their LEO
- 5,227 – Received Trading Online Voucher
- 24,245 – Average yearly entrants to the Student Enterprise Programme
- 1,687 – Approved applications for Microfinance Ireland loans
- 432 – Aailed of LEAN Consultancy through their LEO

