

Micro Enterprise & Local Economic Development

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Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

County & City Enterprise Boards

Background

- Established 1992/1993
- Difficult Economic climate
 - Spiralling unemployment (15+%)
 - Access to Capital High Interest Rates
 - High Rate of Attrition
 - Low Level of Business Startups
 - High Emigration
- Identified Gap in support services
- Need to act urgently

County & City Enterprise Boards

Structure

- Statutory Bodies – Industrial Development Act, 1995
- Board – 14 Members
- Social Partnership Model
- Staff
 - 4/5 per CEB

County & City Enterprise Boards

Role

- Lead agency for micro/small business
- Create employment opportunities
- Increase
 - Enterprise awareness/culture
 - Level of entrepreneurship
- Maximise
 - New business startups
 - Retention/expansion of existing businesses
- Promote innovation, competitiveness and internationalisation
- Promote local economic development

County & City Enterprise Boards

Services Provided

- First Point of Contact- business information, advice and referral service
- Business Capability Development Programmes
- Mentoring /Counselling & Guidance
- Selective Financial Interventions

Other Initiatives

- Enterprise Education
- Business Networks
- National Enterprise Awards
- National Promotional Campaigns

County & City Enterprise Boards

Performance (1993-2009)

- Provided financial support to 21,759 projects (1,074 in 2009)
- Facilitated creation of over 33,000 net new jobs
- Provided capability development training to 191,000 participants (24,797 in 2009)
- Supported annual participation of 12,000 students in Enterprise Education Initiatives
- Provided 22.5% of HPSU's assisted by E.I. (2008)
- Effective EU Co-funded Structure
 - First programme drawdown under OP 2007/13 via Regional Assemblies.
- Support to clients encountering difficulties

Current Challenges - for entrepreneurs/business owners

- **Business & Consumer Confidence** – A national challenge
- **Access to Finance**
 - Bank (Mazars, Credit Review Office)
 - Demand for credit
 - State e.g. CEBs
 - EU/EIB Micro Finance Schemes
- **Need for National Champion for Micro Enterprise Business Sector**

Challenges/Opportunities for CEB Network

CEBs to be the key source of expertise, knowledge and practical support to the micro and small business sector in Ireland

How to achieve this?

- Help to reverse lack of confidence
- CEBs national champion for the micro business sector
- National refocus on indigenous enterprise e.g. Reduction in FDI
- Contribute to a dynamic environment that is supportive of entrepreneurs
- Economic Climate
 - Will increase rate of entrepreneurship
 - CEBs need ability to respond

County Enterprise Fund Companies

- Incorporated in 1988
- In six border counties
- support of International Fund for Ireland

- **Role**
 - ***Soft loan finance up to €100k***
 - €18.5 million to 1,900 businesses
 - 3,900 jobs supported
 - ***Workspace up to 200,000 sq. ft.***
 - *Example:* Cootehill (€2.5m investment)
 - ***New Partner (2008) Social Finance Foundation***
 - Approved SLO's

County Enterprise Fund Companies

Examples of Workspace

Cootehill Enterprise Centre, Cavan



Donegal Enterprise Centre



M-Tek, Monaghan



Ballybay Business Centre



County Enterprise Fund Companies Examples of Workspace

Leitrim County Enterprise Centre



Sligo Enterprise & Technology Centre



Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre

- State of the art facility for distance learning/outreach and corporate training
- Developed by Cavan CEB in conjunction with Cavan County Enterprise Fund in 2003
- Key provider of leading edge, relevant and custom designed, subsidised education and training programmes
- FETAC, CIMA, FÁS NRT accredited

RATIONALE

- Lack of access to University and ITs as support to industry

Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre



Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre

Strategic Objectives

- Encouraging more effective investment by employers in training and development to build necessary work-force skills
- Providing local access to third level (part time) under grad and post grad programmes
- Develop strategic partnerships with universities / ITs

Higher Attainment Through Training Cross Border Hubs (HATTCH)

- First of 63 projects to receive funding promoted by Cross-border Partnerships as part of INTERREG IVA
- Partners are:
 - Cavan County Enterprise Board
 - Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre
 - South West College &
 - University of Ulster
- €1 million funding approved over 3.5 years
- Will deliver 36 accredited programmes to 420 beneficiaries as well as networking opportunities
- Groups benefitting are:
 - Female Entrepreneurs
 - Construction/Engineering & related industries and
 - Migrant workers

Thank You

www.enterpriseboards.ie

www.cavanenterprise.ie