



## Irish Best Practice Supports for Young PEAK Rural Entrepreneurs

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Enterprise supports in Ireland provide a range of different options for young people who wish to become entrepreneurs in rural and mountainous areas or are marginalised in society. The supports include; funding, awards, training, mentoring, incubation spaces, upskilling, networking and more, addressing particularly challenges faced by our young people such as accessibility, infrastructure, employment opportunities and social and economic inclusion.

The supports included in this resource are free to all and apply to young people.

[LEADER](#) companies and [Local Enterprise Offices](#) are the key bodies located in all 26 counties in Ireland. They are a dedicated national and local resource to SME needs and have even tailored programs to specifically for youth ensuring every young person has the resources they need in a local setting to start their entrepreneurial journey.

There is even a course focusing on entrepreneurship skills and personal development see [The Entrepreneurs Academy](#). County Wicklow Partnerships program [Social Enterprise CLIMB](#) puts an emphasis on idea generation and learning new tech tools.





**LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas.**

Funding is delivered to 28 sub regional areas through [Local Action Groups \(LAGs\)](#). These groups are partnerships of public and private entities from a defined geographical area. Local action groups are responsible for local projects in accordance with the local development strategies they develop themselves.

The Transitional LEADER Programme is in place for 2021 – 2001 and focuses on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding

to date and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme is very appropriate to PEAK young rural entrepreneurs as it will support:

- Job creation,
- Foster and encourage entrepreneurship,
- Support projects which address the climate agenda, digital transformation, and
- Encourage rural communities to build on their existing strengths and assets.

The maximum rate of aid for enterprises and commercial projects is 75%.

Promoters interested in accessing assistance under the LEADER Programme should submit an expression of interest to their local action group.



**Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil**  
Local Enterprise Office

**[Local Enterprise Offices](#) offer advice, information and support to Start-ups and growing businesses, supports include; start-your-own-business, market research, business planning advice, mentorship, feasibility grants and co-investment.**

[Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur](#) is run by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).

It aims to support a culture of entrepreneurship among young people in Ireland, to promote entrepreneurship as a career choice, and to encourage Ireland's young people to set up new businesses which will ultimately create jobs. IBYE is run across three categories:

1. Best Business Idea;
2. Best Start-Up Business;
3. Best Established Business.



**[Young Social Innovators \(YSI\)](#) promotes education for social innovation.** It empowers and supports young people to realise their potential as social innovators, giving them the skills and confidence to tackle the social issues facing them, their communities and wider society.

Social innovation learning builds wellbeing amongst young people and communities and helps build a more inclusive, empathetic, fair society. It asks young people to examine the world through a new lens and to reimagine the type of society they would like to live in. It challenges them to put their ideas into practice and to bring their vision to reality. Alongside private sponsors, it is funded by several public sponsors.



*Have an intimate relationship with the problem and be emotionally attached to the solution.*

Sharon Cunningham

Irish Best Young Entrepreneur Winner  
2019



**The Entrepreneurs Academy was established by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.** They are passionate about personal and businesses development, providing people and enterprises with world-leading training on how to do business smarter. The Entrepreneurs Academy has 21 years' experience delivering *Start Your Own Business* programmes – training, mentoring, coaching, networking and driving them forward through accelerator programmes. Through their partnership with The John Maxwell Team, The Entrepreneurs Academy has developed multiple, premium courses on leadership, suitable for individuals and businesses alike. [See the list of programmes](#); e.g., Generation Entrepreneur, Kick Start Your Enterprise



County Wicklow Partnership



**County Wicklow Partnership launched [Social Enterprise Climb](#) – a training programme to guide Wicklow's youth in developing their social enterprise ideas!** Social Enterprise CLIMB engaged The Entrepreneurs Academy to recruit and engage with 40 Wicklow Rural Youth members (age 18-35), with an interest in starting up a social enterprise or in early design stage. The participants are guided on a journey of enlightenment on all things entrepreneurial, covering everything they need to know from A – Z. From ideation and idea twisting and testing, to leadership and team building, through to all the nuts and bolts required, such as financials, legal aspects, marketing, networking and sales. There will be an emphasis on how tech can support new entrepreneurs and how to maximise time using these tools. [Podcast](#).



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*The entrepreneur programme encourages young people to be “brave, take a leap of faith and back themselves and their abilities”.*

Foróige Youth Entrepreneur of the Year 2021

Sean Campbell  
CEO Foróige



## Back to Work Enterprise Allowance

The **Back to Work Enterprise Allowance** is designed to provide a **monetary incentive** for people who are long-term dependent on social welfare payments to make engagement in self-employment financially attractive and viable, while allowing them to retain a reducing proportion of their qualifying social welfare payment over two years.

The Enterprise Officers of **Local Development Companies** and **INTREO Case Officers** work closely with applicants in developing business plans and projections and providing continuing support to individual start-ups.



**The Irish Foróige (Empowering Youth Enriching Communities) Club** is the leading national **youth organisation in**. Their purpose is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their development and in the development of society.

**The Foróige Youth Entrepreneurship Programme NFTE (foroige.ie)** is a cutting edge, world recognised, youth entrepreneurship education and development programme. During the Program young people;

- Study all aspects of starting and successfully running a business
- Receive a grant to start their business. Work with business corporate mentors
- Visit wholesalers to buy their business supplies. Visit local & national companies
- Engage with entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, business executives, community leaders
- Sell their products at the NFTE Class Trade Fair
- Prepare and present their business plan to a panel of judges
- Winners are recognized at the All Island Youth Entrepreneurship Awards