

Government funding for Lean, digital and operational excellence in Ireland

Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland each co-fund Lean, digital and operational excellence projects for their own client companies. Their supports are separate, so this guide sets them out in two parts. Checked against each agency's own pages on 22 October 2026.

Approved provider of Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland Lean programmes · Lean Service Provider of the Year 2019, Lean Business Ireland

The agencies' own pages are the definitive version. This guide is our summary, and rates and eligibility change from time to time. Your Enterprise Ireland Development Adviser or IDA Ireland Project Executive is the definitive source on what applies to your company.

PART 1

Enterprise Ireland supports, for Enterprise Ireland client companies: LeanStart, Build Capability, Digital Discovery, Digital Process Innovation and the Operational Excellence offer.

PART 2

IDA Ireland supports, for IDA Ireland client companies: the Lean/Digitalisation Business Offer.

PART 1

Enterprise Ireland supports

For Enterprise Ireland client companies. Apply through your Enterprise Ireland Development Adviser.

LeanPlus has closed. Enterprise Ireland says Lean training is now available under the Build Capability grant, which replaced LeanPlus.

Access Advice: LeanStart

An external Lean coach for companies new to Lean thinking.

- For Irish-owned businesses in manufacturing or internationally traded services employing 10 or more, and High Potential Start-Up clients.
- 80% of the project cost, up to a maximum grant of €5,000.
- Based on 7 days with an external Lean coach, typically over 8 to 12 weeks; eligible costs capped at €900 a day, including expenses.
- Does not cover general management consultancy or general business process mapping.

Definitive version: enterprise-ireland.com/en/supports/access-advice-leanstart

Build Capability

Training that builds the capability to transform the business. It replaced LeanPlus.

- Non-routine, strategic training for management and staff in four areas. The first is operations, process improvement and technology adoption: Lean and continuous improvement, and digital, AI and automation systems.
- The others are leadership and organisational development, market development, and product and service innovation.
- Grants from €5,000 to €70,000 per project. The rate is a percentage of eligible costs and depends on company size.

Definitive version: enterprise-ireland.com/en/supports/build-capability

Access Advice: Digital Discovery

An independent digital or AI expert, to explore wider digital adoption or to focus on bringing AI into operations.

- Same eligibility as LeanStart.
- 80% of the project cost, up to a maximum grant of €5,000.
- 3 to 7 days with an external expert, typically over 8 to 12 weeks. The expert must be solution-agnostic.

Definitive version: enterprise-ireland.com/en/supports/access-advice-digital-discovery

Digital Process Innovation

A step change in capability and operational effectiveness through new digital ways of working.

- For SMEs and large companies: 50% of eligible costs, up to a maximum grant of €150,000.
- Covers staff time on the project, overheads, external consultancy and project materials.

Definitive version: enterprise-ireland.com/en/supports/digital-process-innovation

Operational Excellence offer

Large-scale transformation for SMEs and large companies redesigning their business model, with spend of at least €100,000.

- Built on Lean and operational excellence training, innovation, digitalisation and sustainability.
- Training and development 50% to 70%, by company size; Digital Process Innovation up to 50% on up to €300,000 of spend; capital assets 10% to 35%, set by the Regional Aid Map (equipment for SMEs only).

Definitive version: enterprise-ireland.com/en/supports/operational-excellence-offer

IDA Ireland supports

For IDA Ireland client companies in manufacturing and services, including global business services operations. Speak to your IDA Ireland Project Executive.

IDA IRELAND

Lean/Digitalisation Business Offer

For IDA client companies in manufacturing and services, run in partnership with Enterprise Ireland. Every offer starts with a diagnostic audit of current practice and performance; digitalisation projects also need the IDA Digitalisation Diagnostic.

- **LeanStart:** up to 7 days with a Lean consultant, typically over 8 weeks; €6,300 eligible cost (7 days at €900) with €5,000 IDA support.
- **LeanPlus:** a medium-scale process improvement or digitalisation project, generally up to 6 months; eligible costs include training fees up to €900 a day and internal Lean project champions.
- **LeanTransform:** company-wide transformation, typically 2 to 3 years and over €100,000; support decided case by case.
- IDA's published brochure dates from 2024. Enterprise Ireland has since closed its own LeanPlus grant, so ask your IDA Project Executive which elements are available now.

Definitive version: [IDA Ireland Lean/Digitalisation Business Offer brochure \(2024\)](#)

How we work with you

- **Conversation.** A short call, or the free Business Execution Canvas® Diagnostic, to find where Lean will make the biggest difference.
- **Proposal.** We prepare a proposal that fits the agency's requirements, which you submit with your application.
- **Delivery.** With your team, on your own processes, with measured results reported against the targets in the application.

Book a free 30-minute call at alexmcdonnell.com/book, or request a proposal at expertivity.com/contact.

Expertivity Technologies · expertivity.com · amcdonnell@expertivity.com · Ireland: Limerick · Kildare · USA: Connecticut · Texas
McLaw and Associates Limited, trading as Expertivity Technologies. Business Execution Canvas® is a registered trade mark of Alex McDonnell, used with permission.