

Grants Update

Our Grants team is available to provide further information on the schemes included in this update and to assist with applications. If you have queries on the schemes below or if you have any other grant queries, please contact one of following:

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Enterprise Ireland (EI)

As a result of the global recession, many Irish companies have been forced to examine how they are doing business, what they are selling and to whom. If you are interested in seeking help to reshape your business's future, Enterprise Ireland offers grants to eligible companies* that can help towards the costs of bringing in expert help. Examples of grants include:

- **Feasibility study grant** – usually at a grant rate of 50%.
- **Strategic consultancy grant** – usually at a grant rate of 50%.
- **New market research grant** – (usually at a grant rate of 70%) up to a maximum of €100,000 towards the costs of researching opportunities in new overseas markets.

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- **LEAN grants** – provide funding to encourage companies to increase business performance, productivity and competitiveness using LEAN (or similar) principles. Grant rate and amounts vary.
- **ebusiness Management Initiative grant** – grant funding is available to help companies develop their ebusiness/ICT management capability. Grant rates vary but maximum grant is €20,000.
- **Environment grants** – there is a range of grants available to encourage companies to go “greener” eg implementing environmental standards, carbon management reduction, obtaining “eco-label” for company products.



The grants listed overleaf are open for applications on an on-going basis. However, certain grants offered by EI are operated on a call basis; open calls at the moment include:

- **Job Expansion Fund** – this programme provides funding for eligible EI companies* which have been in business for at least 5 years and which plan to grow and increase job numbers. Maximum grant available is €150,000. The next call close date is 5.30pm on **18 November 2010**.
- **Leadership 4 Growth Programme** – training course for CEOs/senior management teams of Irish owned companies*. The grant rate is 50% - 70% of the course fees. Applications must be in by **15 October 2010**.
- **International Selling Programme** – training course for senior executives in Irish owned companies* which are seeking to increase export sales. The grant rate is 50% - 70% of course fees. Applications must be in by **29 October 2010**.
- **Going Global** – this programme assists Irish owned companies* to develop new export markets. The total grant available is €25,000 at a grant rate of 50% of eligible costs. The closing date for applications is **8 October 2010**.

IDA Ireland

IDA Ireland continues to provide a range of assistance to encourage the establishment and development of overseas companies in Ireland. Certain IDA grants are only available in particular areas of Ireland. However, eligible overseas companies in all parts of Ireland can apply for the following grants:

- **R&D grants** – IDA Ireland continues to offer attractive R&D grants to encourage overseas companies based in Ireland to undertake new R&D activities here. R&D grants are additional to the R&D tax credits available.
- **Training grants** – overseas companies in Ireland which are undertaking major training initiatives may be able to attract grant assistance from IDA Ireland eg training grants have been used to assist with the costs of introducing LEAN (or similar) principles in companies.

The grants highlighted in this update are part of the full range of assistance offered by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. Information on the full range of grant assistance is available from the PwC Grants team.

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How can PwC help?

The PwC Grants team can help you in a number of ways:

1. Grants availability

We can help you identify which grants might be applicable to your business and assist you in preparing for an initial meeting with Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland or any other relevant agency.

2. Grant applications

We can help you with the completion of applications for grant assistance, particularly if you are required to submit a business plan or strategy plan. We can also help you negotiate with the grant agency to ensure that the package offered is suitably structured for your company.

3. Grant payments

Once you have been awarded grants it is important that you draw down these grants on a timely, efficient basis. All grant claims must be audited – we offer a streamlined grant audit service to ensure that the grant audit does not hold up the company's claim for grant monies.

4. Grants health-check

If you have already received grants but are unclear about your grant status and the outstanding obligations or entitlements you have, we can review your existing Grant Agreements and provide a status report indicating amounts to be drawn down, outstanding obligations and action to be taken.

5. Grant repayments/clawback

In the event that your business does not go according to plan, we will advise you on how to manage any potential clawback or repayment issues that arise.