

## Welcome

### Harnessing the Learning Assets in SMEs

Since September 2014, the SYNERGY project team have been developing, delivering and disseminating the project and its innovative outputs; aiming to bridge the gap between the current offering of VET support for micro-enterprises, and the increasing need for specialised training amongst Europe's SMEs. In consultation with small business owners across Europe, the project team has:

- Developed a series of mini-learning training resources
- Provided free to use information resources and toolkits
- Facilitated online networking and mentoring
- Addressed the real training needs of the micro-enterprise and SME sector.

All partner organisations collaborated to develop these modules ab-initio, relying on research findings, results of literature review and the identifications of best practices. All resources are now available to access online for free in five partner languages through the SYNERGY exchange platform – [www.synergyexchaneg.eu](http://www.synergyexchaneg.eu).



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## Case Studies from Partner Counties

We have selected a series of case studies based on the experiences and motivations of micro-enterprise owners and VET professionals involved in the SYNERGY project; as a means of illustrating the impact and development potential of this innovative new approach to VET provision for business in participating partner countries.

**“Leveraging new disruptive technologies such as social media allowed and encouraged business owners, mentors, trainers and enterprise support agencies to interact and foster an innovative learning environment that is agile and adaptable. SYNERGY is an important project that will both bring people with similar needs together as well as encourage productive interaction in learning”**

Quote from business owner, Cyprus.

**“Researching evidence on why mini learning resources make sense, as well as completing the VET training in Ireland, has helped me amend my approach to training materials production as well as the length of my seminars.”**

Quote from VET tutor, Greece.

These cases studies are presented in the Project Summary, page 11 to 16 and available on [www.projectsynergy.eu](http://www.projectsynergy.eu)

## Mini-learning Resources

**Brief, time-bound learning at your finger-tips!**

SYNERGY has been successful in creating learning opportunities and exchanges that are supported at a time and in a format that is suitable and appropriate to time constrained business owners. In consultation with small business owners across Europe, the SYNERGY team has developed a series of mini-learning training courses that address the real training requirements of the micro-enterprise and SME sector.

Micro-learning training resources are very practical and relevant in nature to be responsive to the current challenges and issues facing learners, business owners and training professionals.

The micro-learning resources developed as part of the SYNERGY project are not intended to replace more formal vocational training, instead they often feature mastery topics intended to address special areas of knowledge.



**Learn**



**People**

## SYNERGY Launched at Final Conference 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, Navan, Ireland

The final products and outputs of the SYNERGY project were showcased and presented to the multi-sectoral audience of business owners, community leaders, enterprise support agencies, trainers, tutors, local and national politicians, and MEP Ms. Marion Harkin, in conjunction with the LEADER Launch on 22<sup>nd</sup> September in Navan, Co. Meath.

