



# PRESS RELEASE

European Funding Aims to Improve Training and Supports for Irish Businesses!

An exciting new programme offers training providers in County Meath the opportunity to improve their training offerings and supports to local small-to-medium-sized enterprises. The SYNERGY project led by Meath Partnership brings together seven partners from across Europe. Over the next twenty months, partners will combine their knowledge and experience to develop a suite of learning resources and support systems to help VET professionals and SMEs network together and improve small-business supports in County Meath.

As part of the work of the project team, a pan-European research and audit process was conducted in spring 2015 with 132 micro-enterprise owners. The results clearly demonstrate that at present the training offering available to micro-enterprise owners does not reflect the real world needs of these entrepreneurs. Traditional forms of training courses delivered over several days at distant locations are not fit for purpose and fail to recognise the demands and pressures on business owners today. Short, bite-sized training offerings that can be accessed on the go or at a time that is convenient for the business owner is in high demand. Coupled with opportunities for networking and peer-to-peer learning and exchange is greatly sought after. The Synergy project team has already begun to address these requirements and challenges and will have the first prototypes of its training offerings and networking platform available in September 2015.

According to Mr. Ludlow, 'SYNERGY is a great example of how funding under the Erasmus+ programme can provide local business owners with an opportunity to network with businesses in other European countries; to make the connections needed to target new customer sectors or geographical locations; to form partnerships that would otherwise not be possible, or simply to be inspired by the approaches and methods used by other micro-enterprise owners to maximize their return.'

For more information, please consult our project website at [www.projectsynergy.eu](http://www.projectsynergy.eu), or alternatively contact our EU Team in our Kells office on 046-9280790.

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