

EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS ADVISOR SMEs in Ireland Benefit from Business Service and Training Grant



Industry leaders from EUGA consortium gathered together to create a model to address Ireland's low productivity problem. The Small Business Productivity Model encourages and aids SMEs from all sectors to assess their individual business needs and implement productivity improving strategies.

FAST FACTS >>

Situation

In Ireland, there is a requirement for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop a better understanding and usage of information and communication technology (ICT) to improve productivity and competitiveness. Due to the finance and time constraints imposed on SMEs, this is only possible with the provision of independent ICT expertise and appropriate training incentives.

Solution

The European Union Grants Advisor (EUGA) consortium is working in partnership with Ireland's National Training Organisation (FÁS) to create a solution to Ireland's low productivity problem. The new grant scheme offers funding for consulting services to business and IT training. As part of the newly developed delivery model, small business owners in Ireland are trained how to optimise technology usage in order to maximise team and personal productivity. The model also subsidises business development consulting, and IT training across the whole company. The project is being piloted in Dublin with plans to expand to all of Ireland by 2007.

Benefits

- Irish small business owners learn how to optimise IT usage and increase competitiveness.
- ICT initiated projects have met 100 per cent of their productivity goals.
- SMEs receive customised development plans and IT training to boost employee productivity.