

Brexit Supports: Co-Innovate Programme Nurturing ideas – Growing success



In an ever changing and increasingly competitive marketplace, innovation is integral to business growth and success. With Co-Innovate, you can learn about the benefits of innovation, identify opportunities for growth in your business and create a vision to make it happen.

The Co-Innovate programme is a cross border research and innovation [R&I] initiative funded under the European INTERREG VA Programme. The programme brings together key development agencies to deliver a programme aligned with each government's strategic priorities. In Northern Ireland key elements of Co-Innovate will be delivered by Enterprise NI and its member Local Enterprise Agencies. In the **Border Region of Ireland** this support will be delivered by the **Local Enterprise Offices in Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth.**

It is widely recognised that innovation is a critical driver to competitiveness and growth. The aim of this initiative is to increase business expenditure on research and innovation and grow the number of firms innovating. The Co-Innovate programme targets SMEs in the manufacturing and tradable services sector, providing education and capability development support tailored to company needs.

There are Five Strands to the programme:

- **Strand 1** – An SMEs first formal engagement with the Co-Innovate programme will be to undertake a newly developed R&I diagnostic toolkit the '**Innovation Ready Reckoner**'. This diagnostic will assess your company's current position in terms of innovation. A series of workshops delivered by Innovation Experts familiar with the challenges facing SMEs will be delivered. These workshops are designed to demystify innovation and help you understand how it can drive your business forward.
- **Strand 2** – Successful companies will undertake a detailed **Business Status Review**. After a selection process, companies will progress to a comprehensive Innovation Audit.
- **Strand 3** – Enterprise-specific action plans will be designed for each company progressing to Strand 3. These action plans will concentrate on developing Research & Innovation capabilities. Up to 10 days intensive mentoring will be provided to address specific challenges.
- **Strand 4** – Companies will have the opportunity to engage in a cross-border R&I partnership involving their company, a research institute and an intern over a 12-month period;
- **Strand 5** – Sector-specific networks and partnerships involving enterprises and research institutes will be established.

For further information please contact your Local Enterprise Office –
www.localenterprise.ie