CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

LEO Supports for Construction SMEs

Why this matters now

Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) now provide key supports to small businesses **with 1–50 employees**. That brings many CIF members into scope for funding and hands-on consultancy across **Lean, Digital and Green** – plus core grants for feasibility, start-up and expansion.

What's on offer

Core advisory & capability supports

- **Training, Workshops & 1-to-1 Mentoring**
  Practical sessions in finance, marketing, digital, management and more. Use mentoring to shape a clear plan before applying for grants.
- **Management development & networking**
  Peer learning, business advice clinics and sector events to share solutions and build capability across your team.

Support	What it does (Outcome)	Funding / Scale	Who it's for (Eligibility – quick)	Key conditions	Typical construction use-cases	How to apply
Lean for Business	Streamlines processes, reduces waste; **primes teams for digital adoption**. Slides cite **avg savings ≈ €34k** and **~31% output lift** (illustrative).	**Up to 2 days** one-to-one Lean consultancy; **€50 client contribution**.	Micro **≤10 FTE**; on a **limited basis** via LEO for **non-EI/IDA firms with 10–50 FTE**.	Availability at LEO discretion; **ineligible sectors**: primary agriculture, fishery/aquaculture, coal & steel; activities posing reputational risk (e.g., gambling per 1956 Act, adult entertainment, tobacco, non-medicinal cannabis products).	Standardise site & office workflows; pull-planning, site diaries, procurement & approvals clean-up; SOPs that make later software adoption stick.	Speak to **LEO Business Advisor** → short application → matched Lean mentor → deliver 1–2 days → implement quick wins.
Digital for Business (Diagnostic & Roadmap)	Independent **digital audit** of current systems, gaps, integrations; **vendor-agnostic roadmap** (often with site visit).	**Up to 3 days** with a matched consultant (LEO-funded assignment).	**1–50 employees**, **≥6 months trading**, **registered**, **solvent**, **operate in your LEO area**, and **not EI/IDA clients**.	Not a marketing plan; focuses on operations & systems. Sets up clear specs for quotes and implementation.	Job/field tracking; CRM; finance/payroll; document control; cyber basics; analytics & (where justified) paid AI copilots.	**Advisor call** → **online application** → submit **financials, latest management accounts, Tax Clearance** → complete diagnostic → receive roadmap.
Grow Digital Voucher (Implementation)	Part-funds **new, off-the-shelf software** + **implementation/training** explicitly recommended in your diagnostic.	**50%** of eligible costs; **€500–€5,000** grant per application.	Same as Digital; plus **Digital for Business completed in the previous 2 years**.	**No upgrades** to existing systems; **no retrospective purchases**; **buy only after Letter of Offer** (approval path includes **Investment Committee**).	Implement field service/job tracking, CRM, finance, e-commerce apps, cybersecurity tools, analytics & paid AI copilots per roadmap.	Apply post-diagnostic → evaluation → **Letter of Offer** → **purchase** → **claim** with invoices/proof of payment.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

Eligibility & how to apply

Eligibility — quick reference

1. **Lean for Business**
   - Open to micro (≤10 FTE) and, on a limited basis through the LEO, **non-EI/IDA firms with 10–50 FTE**.
   - **Ineligible sectors (LEO policy):** primary **agriculture**, **fishery/aquaculture**, **coal & steel**; activities posing **reputational risk** (e.g., gambling/gaming per the Gaming & Lotteries Act 1956, adult entertainment, tobacco, non-medicinal cannabis products).
2. **Digital for Business** & **Grow Digital Voucher**
   - **1–50 paid employees**, **6+ months trading**, **registered**, **solvent**, operating in your **local LEO area**, and **not Enterprise Ireland/IDA clients**.
   - Grow Digital requires a **Digital for Business** project completed **within the last 2 years**.

What costs are typically eligible (Grow Digital)

- **New, off-the-shelf software licences** (e.g., job-tracking, CRM, finance, analytics/AI tools).
- **Implementation, configuration and user training** tied to that software (subject to programme rules).
- **Not eligible:** upgrades to systems you already own; **retrospective** purchases (before approval).

Application Steps & Evidence

1. **Talk to your LEO Business Advisor** (use LocalEnterprise.ie to find your county/city office).
2. **Confirm eligibility** and request the **online application**.
3. **Prepare documentation:** latest **financial statements**, **most recent management accounts** (your LEO may specify a cut-off month), **Tax Clearance**.
4. **For Grow Digital:** ensure your **Digital for Business** report explicitly recommends the items you intend to fund.
5. **Approval pathway:** LEO assessment → **Investment Committee** decision → **Letter of Offer** → **purchase** → **claim** (keep invoices/proof of payment).
   Tip: **Do not purchase before your Letter of Offer**—retrospective spend is ineligible.

Good practice for CIF members

- **Sequence Lean for Business→ Digital for Business → Grow Digital** for smoother change and better adoption on site.

Get Started

- **Find your LEO & book an advice call:** LocalEnterprise.ie → *Find Your Local Office*.
- **Ask for:** Lean for Business, Digital for Business (up to 3 days), and — if recommended — the Grow Digital Voucher (50% grant, **€500–€5,000**).
- **Mention you're a CIF member** and that you want to discuss construction-specific digital tools and site adoption.
- **Stay informed:** watch for LEO **monthly "Digital Boost" webinars** and mailing-list updates for dates and application windows.

Prepared by CIF for member use. Programme details/eligibility are subject to change by LEO; confirm specifics with your local office at the application stage.