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Name of the Center	<b>Innovation &amp; Management Centre (WestBIC)</b>		
Country	<b>Ireland</b>		
Contact person	Name: Joe Greaney	Email address: jgreaney@westbic.ie	Telephone: 00353 91730850
Website	www.westbic.ie		
Address	Galway Technology Centre, Mervue Business Park, Galway, Ireland		
Strong areas of expertise	<p>WESTBICs aims and objectives include: the provision of business support to Innovative Entrepreneurs &amp; Start-Ups, the provision of assistance to Intermediaries involved in enterprise creation and development, the management of Incubation Space for knowledge intensive enterprises, linking entrepreneurs with seed capital opportunities, provision of mentoring to early stage enterprise and assisting the internationalisation of companies via our international networks.</p> <p>WESTBIC provides a focused range of development services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animation work to promote, encourage and support new and existing entrepreneurs</li> <li>- Tailored support for early-stage innovative enterprise including training, feasibility studies and research assistance, mentoring, business and financial planning and access to finance</li> <li>- A similar range of animation, training and support services tailored to suit the needs of rural enterprise as well as social / community enterprise projects</li> <li>- Delivery of a range of applied innovation support services, aimed at improving the competitiveness, scaling-up and levels of innovation in micro-enterprise and growth sectors including innovation training and ICT 'step-up' programmes, internationalisation support, seed funds, incubation and other supports</li> <li>- Support for incubation and enterprise space development throughout the region, including animation of the development process and technical support in incubation project delivery</li> <li>- Support to partner intermediaries through assistance with project planning, service delivery, research and evaluation work, at regional, national and international levels</li> <li>- Analysis and development work on behalf of a range of development agencies, intermediaries and the community and voluntary sectors</li> </ul>		
<b>Services to be provided</b>			
Mentoring can be provided in the form of business planning, entrepreneurship, sourcing finance & Internationalisation to name a few by the following people	<p><b>Joe Greaney</b> is the Director of WESTBIC. He is a past President of EBN, the European BIC Network (<a href="http://www.ebn.be">www.ebn.be</a>) and was previously Chair of the Association of EU BICs in Ireland. Joe is a regular policy contributor at both EU and National level on many aspects of applied Innovation Support Services in the SME market. His areas of expertise include Entrepreneurship, Incubation, Private Equity Start-up Capital, Transnational Innovation Transfer, the Innovation Process in the SME market and the relevant institutional framework, both in Ireland and in the EU, relevant to this group. He is a Quality Auditor for the EU (DG Enterprise) quality assurance system among BICs across the EU and has delivered innovation relevant technical support to government institutions throughout the EU and outside. He has served two Presidencies of Galway Chamber of Commerce and on the Council of Chambers Ireland.</p> <p><b>John Brennan</b> is Financial Controller in WESTBIC and works extensively with high growth start-ups in the areas of business development and financial modeling. He has also accumulated over fifteen years experience in the design and delivery of advanced incubation systems featuring lead models in connectivity, divisibility and overall offering to the incubatee. John is also practiced in the intricacies of managing the finances in EU funded programmes and financial engineering at SME level.</p> <p><b>James Donlon</b> is WESTBIC Regional Manager for the Midlands region of Ireland. James has extensive experience supporting innovative, community and social enterprises. An MBA graduate with a specialism in business sustainability through innovation, James manages the Midlands delivery team and has over ten years experience in the areas of programme management, training and mentoring. His work includes the management and delivery of local, regional and transnational international programmes in the areas of innovation, internationalization and competitiveness supports to industry. Specialist training topics include Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Clusters and Networks and Business Planning Tools for Enterprise. James has also provided graduate entrepreneurship training programs/ modules in a number of 3rd level institutions in Ireland.</p>		

<p>Mentoring can be provided in the form of business planning, entrepreneurship, sourcing finance &amp; Internationalisation to name a few by the following people</p>	<p><b>Mary Ryan</b> is Assistant Director of WESTBIC, the Business &amp; Innovation Centre for the BMW region of Ireland. She has over twenty years experience of providing tailored support to early stage and developing enterprises through WESTBIC, across a broad range of industry sectors. In addition she provides specialist advice and support to third level colleges in the BMW region, relating to the development of Innovation/ Incubation Centres and the stimulation of campus spin-offs. She has also been involved in a number of transnational projects aimed at developing and internationalising SME's.</p> <p><b>Ultan Faherty</b> is area manager with WESTBIC in the North West region with responsibility for the provision of business planning and project development support to new high-potential start-up projects and expanding knowledge intensive businesses. In his WestBIC support activities to the Halo Business Angel Network, Ultan matches private investors with pre-screened investment opportunities in start-up, early stage and developing business across many business sectors. He also provides business support services to companies based at the CoLab incubation centre based on-campus at Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Ultan was central to the development and management of the Cross-Border BIC (CBBIC), a virtual BIC initiative between Noribic, Derry and WESTBIC in the North West region of Ireland, with a particular focus on the development of cross-border networks and clusters leading to the economic development of the North West region as a whole. Ultan also supported WESTBIC's activities in the iFactory project, alongside Noribic in delivering bespoke innovation supports to small businesses with an aspiration to grow, compete and succeed. Ultan is also an assistant lecturer on Letterkenny Institute of Technology's BA in Business Administration, BA in Social and Community Enterprise and the LLLBBS Programme.</p>
<p>Space and infrastructure</p>	<p>WestBIC are based in the Galway Technology Centre and will be able to provide a desk space with wifi for the entrepreneur during their time with us.</p> <p>Would the entrepreneur have a free space all day in the center? Only some hours a day? What are the timetables? Yes, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm</p>
<p>Networking with other local agents</p>	<p>Galway Technology Centre houses over 40 companies. The Entrepreneur will have the opportunity to network with these companies after direct Introductions from WestBIC.</p> <p>We have a large database of client companies mainly in the ICT sector where introductions to companies in a similar field to the entrepreneur can be facilitated</p>
<p>Integration Activities</p>	<p>Attendance at all relevant events can be facilitated. There are a number of agencies that host networking events in Galway weekly. We will source sector specific events for the entrepreneur to attend with a WestBIC mentor to make introductions</p>
<p>Is there any assistance in finding accommodation?</p>	<p>Yes we can help with this. Kerry Quinlan- Project &amp; Marketing officer</p>
<p>Other additional services (if any)</p>	
<p>Please briefly describe.</p>	