

Hints for micro-enterprises

If you are planning a sideline or a micro-enterprise, you should ...

... look specifically for a business idea for a company that requires the lowest possible running costs (e.g. rent, staff) and investment (e.g. office equipment). Keep the costs as low as possible.

... check whether this business idea actually allows you to run your company on a part-time basis. For example, this

would be unrealistic in the case of a retail outlet.

... consider how business ideas may offer scope for development, e.g. growing from a word-processing service into a secretarial service for companies, or from a breakfast service for office staff into your own cafe.

If you are still in employment ...

... your job contract (among other things) will regulate whether and to what extent you may work on a self-employed basis in addition to your regular job. In some cases, your employer

has to give approval. Certainly get the advice of a lawyer. Take care that your business idea does not compete with your employer's company.

If you are unemployed ...

... you can only receive unemployment benefit if you do not work more than 15 hours a week in your sideline activity. If your working week amounts to 15 hours, you are no longer regarded as unemployed, and you cease to receive benefits from the employment office. So if you reach the 15-hour threshold, you should

apply for a bridging allowance which is provided specifically for unemployed people who start up in business. If you do not reach the 15-hour limit, the profit from your self-employment will be deducted from your unemployment benefit.