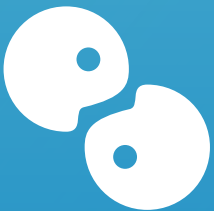




# Your Essential Guide to Lean Six Sigma

“ Measurement is the first step that leads to control and eventually to improvement. If you can't measure something, you can't understand it. If you can't understand it, you can't control it. If you can't control it, you can't improve it. ”

- H. James Harrington



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# What is Lean Six Sigma?

## Cut Costs, Improve Productivity, Boost Profits

Lean and Six Sigma are two process improvement methodologies, which when used together become an extremely powerful business transformational strategy.

Businesses all over Ireland are adopting Lean Six Sigma to maximise their organisation's potential, increase team morale and effectiveness, and minimise waste and downtime.

This guide will give you the basics of what Lean and Six Sigma are all about, explore some of the key benefits of roles within Lean Six Sigma, and offer guidance on training and certification.



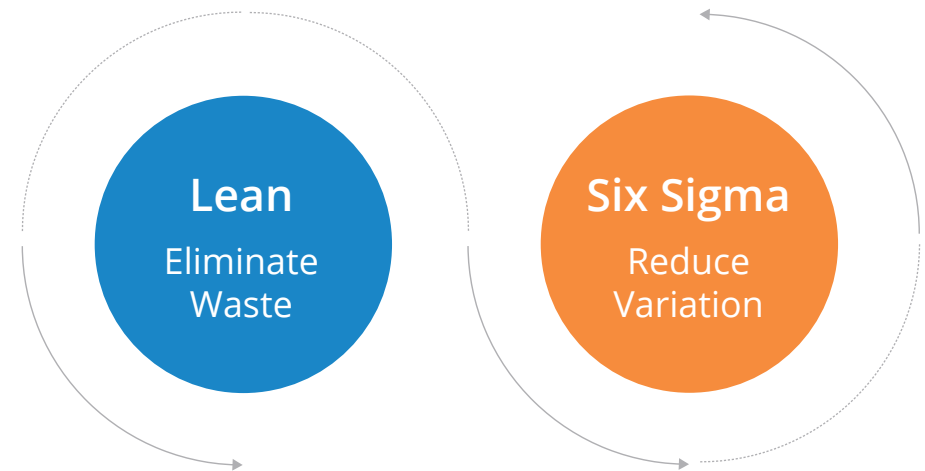
# What is the Difference between Lean and Six Sigma?

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Lean and Six Sigma are separate methodologies. They originated in different places at different times. They can be used independently or combined.

A very general description would note that Lean targets waste, while Six Sigma works on reducing variation.

To understand why they are so dynamic together, and fully answer the question “What is Lean Six Sigma?”, let’s look at them in more detail individually, and then combined.



## Lean

Lean as we know it today was established in the early 1990s, growing from the TPS (Toyota Production System). It was an approach for streamlining production by eliminating any unnecessary or wasteful elements of the production process.

Today, Lean has expanded far beyond its origins. It is now widely implemented in all sectors of industry and business.

## Six Sigma

Six Sigma was first introduced within Motorola in 1986.

The name refers to a statistical concept on the number of defects per million repetitions of a process, or outputs of a product.

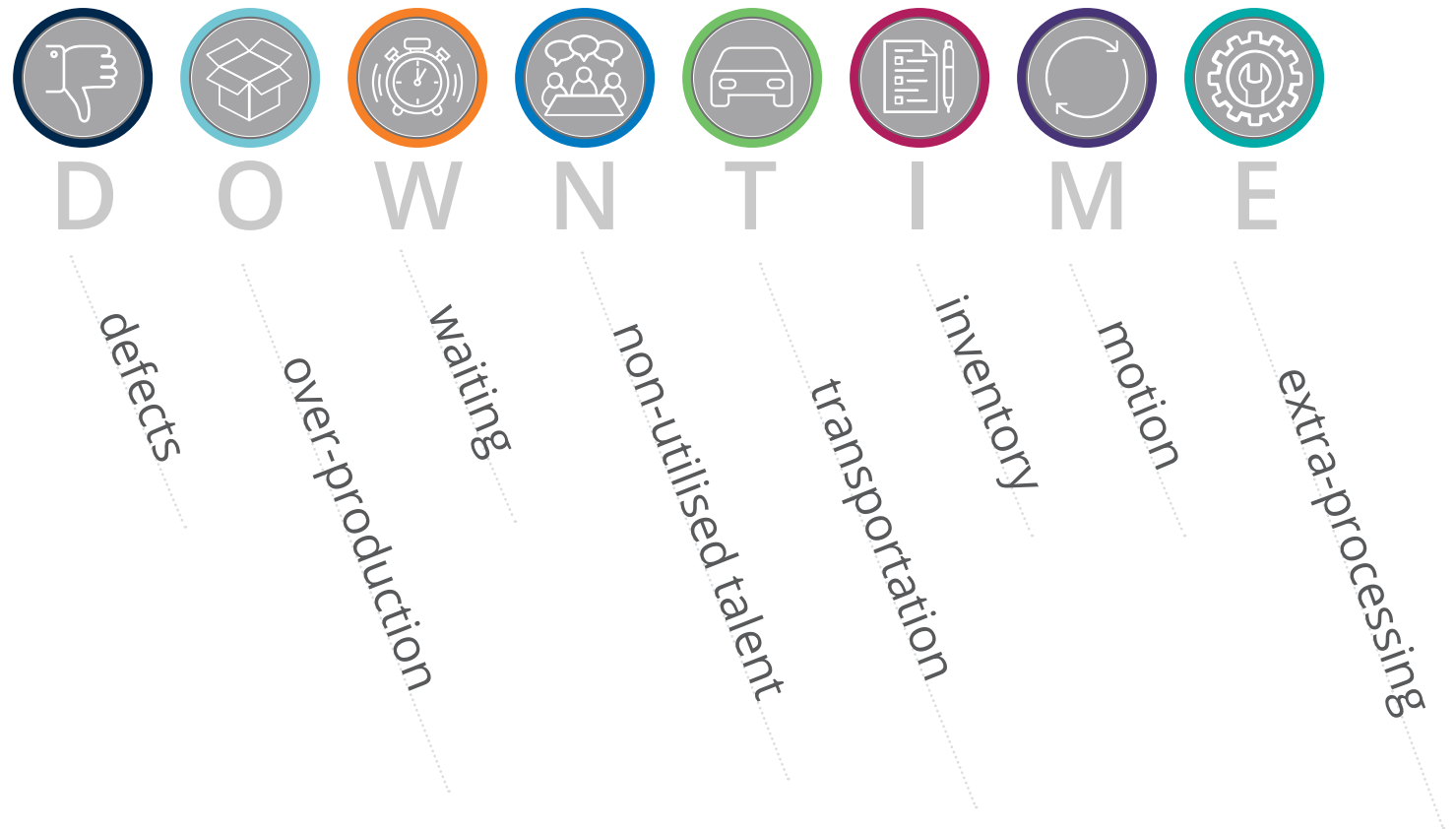
Six Sigma is a goal to work towards, the ideal low level of variations and defects per million opportunities (DPMO).

## How Does Lean Work?



Lean targets waste, eliminating anything that is “non-value add” to your processes.

Using the 8 wastes as a guiding point, a Lean approach will consider all elements and stages within a process. It will carefully determine which parts of the process are value-add and essential to quality and productivity, and which elements are considered ‘waste’.



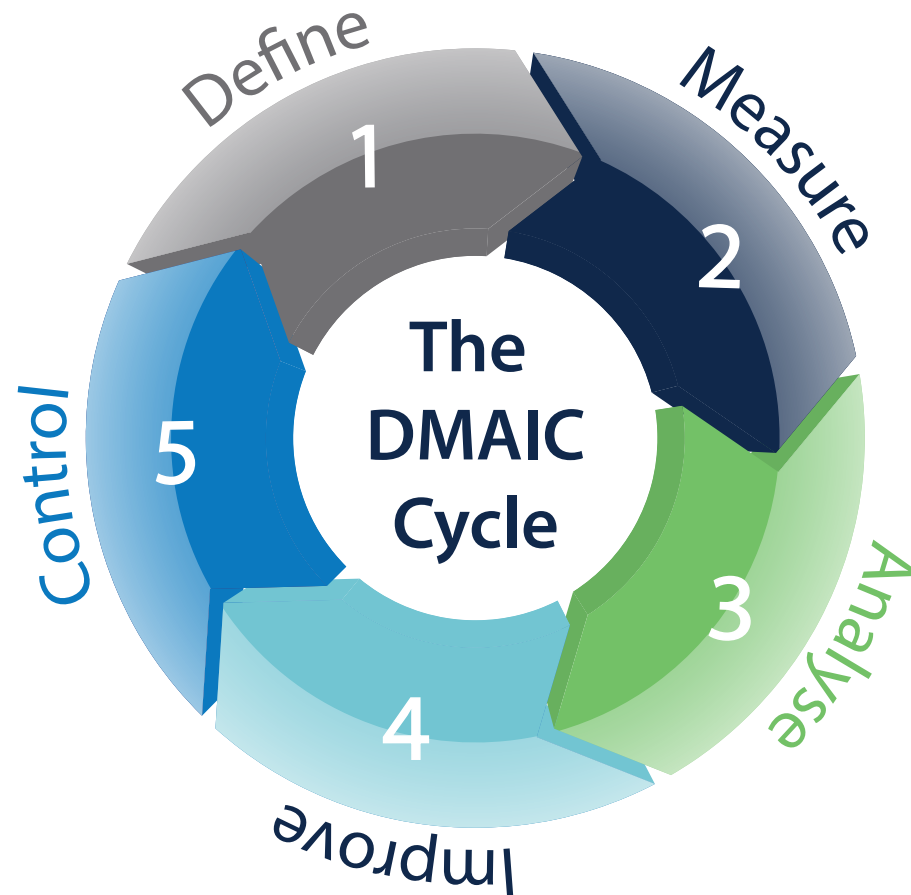
## How Does Six Sigma Work?

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Many refer to Six Sigma as “problem solving”. Six Sigma is used to identify flaws, variations, or defects in a process, and to correct them.

Using the DMAIC Cycle (Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control), a process can be mapped and analysed to identify and resolve issues or flaws.



# Combining Lean and Six Sigma - Key Benefits

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You can see how both Lean and Six Sigma are very effective, even used alone. However, the two methodologies work so well together that they are almost better known as the combination “Lean Six Sigma” than as standalone methods. Let’s look at the benefits they can achieve when combined.



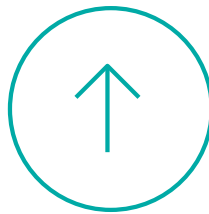
## Less

Waste

Variation

Defects

Costs



## More

Savings

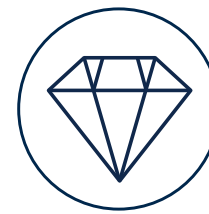
Revenue & Profits

Efficiency

Effectiveness

Capacity

Motivation



## Better

Organisational Culture

Processes

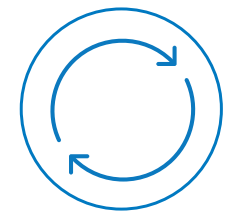
Capability

Reliability

Communication

Team Engagement

Quality



## Faster

Cycle Times

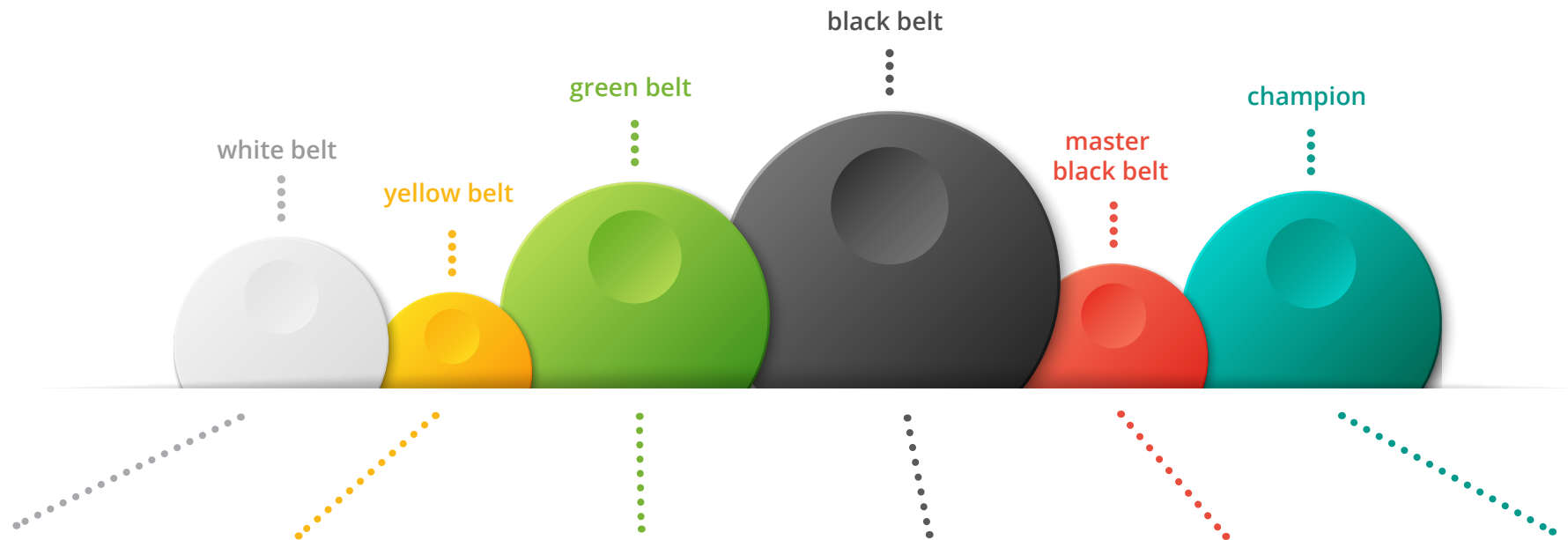
Lead Times

Problem Solving

Growth



# Understanding Lean Six Sigma Belts



A **White Belt** has an understanding of how Lean Six Sigma works. They can use the terminology to communicate potential issues or relevant points to those working on process improvement projects.

**Yellow Belts** have a strong foundation in Lean Six Sigma. They understand how it works and can contribute to process improvement projects, reporting to and supporting Green Belts.

**Green Belts** can manage process improvement projects. They have a confident understanding of Lean Six Sigma and the capability to implement it successfully.

Those trained and certified at **Black Belt** level drive cross functional process improvement projects. They take savings and improvements to the next level and function as a mentor to lower belt levels.

**Master Black Belts** are very advanced at Lean Six Sigma implementation. They work cross level with Green Belts and leadership teams to strategise and lead process improvement across the organisation.

A **Champion** is someone who is part of the organisation's leadership team. They are fully invested in nurturing and supporting a Lean Six Sigma culture.

# Is Lean Six Sigma Right for You?

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## Every industry, every role....

Lean Six Sigma works for any business or organisation. It can be implemented successfully in small, community organisations just as effectively as in large, Fortune 1000 companies. If your answer to any of the questions below is “yes”, then Lean Six Sigma could be exactly what you’re looking for.

- ❓ Do you want to identify and eliminate non-value-add tasks in your workplace?
- ❓ Do you want to find effective solutions to flaws in your processes, products, or projects?
- ❓ Are you are looking for a fresh way to tackle existing problems in your working environment?
- ❓ Would you like to standardise processes in your company, team, or department?
- ❓ Do you have a need / want to future-proof a product or service?
- ❓ Are you are seeking ways to cut down waste in your business?
- ❓ Are you are aiming for more consistent, predictable results?
- ❓ Is increasing productivity is a goal for you?
- ❓ Do you need to reduce costs?
- ❓ Do you feel you would benefit from using a proven method for achieving results?

## Getting Started

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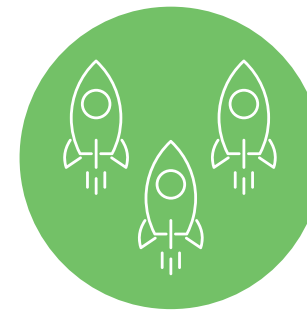
To get started on your Lean Six Sigma journey, you can take either of the paths below. Choose a path focusing on training and certifying in Lean Six Sigma as an individual, or on introducing or progressing a Lean Six Sigma culture in your organisation.



### Path 1: Training & Certifying as an Individual

We offer 3 public Lean Six Sigma courses, with dates available throughout the year. Each focuses on meeting you wherever you are on your Lean Six Sigma path.

[Learn More](#)



### Path 2: Lean Six Sigma & Your Organisation

In-company training usually requires a more tailored approach. We create customised Lean Six Sigma training solutions aligned with the unique requirements of each client.

[Learn More](#)

## Training & Certifying as an Individual

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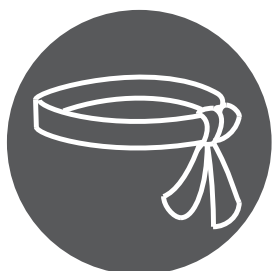
### Start Your Journey - Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt

Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Training is the perfect place to start if you want to know how to make real savings and improvements in any working environment. Our certified, 2-day Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt training course is a practical introduction to the methods of Lean and Six Sigma. [Learn More...](#)



### Dive a Little Deeper - Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt

To explore Lean Six Sigma in more depth, we recommend taking a look at our Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Training. This course is perfect for getting to grips with how Lean works, and developing your confidence in how you contribute to process improvement projects. [Learn More...](#)



### Progress Your Journey - International Lean Six Sigma Black Belt

Black Belt training and certification is ideal for those who have experience with Lean, Six Sigma, or process improvement. Black Belts drive sustainable process improvement within an organisation. They achieve high levels of savings and improvements. [Learn More...](#)

# Lean Six Sigma For Your Team

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We work with businesses of all sizes and within all sectors, offering a fully-rounded Lean journey solution.

We can guide you from the initial stages of creating a vision and strategy for Lean in your business, through training the team at all levels, and sustaining your process improvement culture.

## ✓ Date & Venue Flexibility

You choose when and where we deliver the training. We can come to your location anywhere in Ireland.

## ✓ Cost-Effective Group Training

Our pricing model for in-company training, combined with the fact that you are eliminating travel costs add up to considerable savings.

## ✓ Consistent Skills Throughout Your Team

You can feel confident in your team's ability to implement a steady standard of excellence and a common approach to implementing Lean Six Sigma within your business.

## ✓ Tailored Training, Focused on Your Organisation

When planning your training programme, we will work with you to assess how training can be truly relevant to the daily processes and roadblocks of your business.



[Learn More](#)

## More Lean Six Sigma Resources

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### Talk to Us

You can reach us by phone on Freephone 1800 910 810, or 01 861 0700 (mon - thurs, 9.00am - 5.30pm, fri, 9.00am - 5.00pm).

We will always be happy to chat with you about the right path for your Lean Six Sigma training.

**Freephone 1800 910 810**



### Read About the Lean Journey

You can dive deeper into what it means to get started with Lean Six Sigma by reading our article "The Lean Journey - Taking Your First Steps".

Find out what you'll need for your journey.

**Jump to Article**



### Ask Us A Question Online

If you'd prefer to contact us online, request a phonecall, or to get in touch outside of office hours, using the "Ask A Quick Question" button below is the best option.

We'll respond with the information you need.

**Ask A Quick Question**

# Get In Touch

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