

ATM for SMEs

Interreg Europe

ATM for SMEs aims at improving the access of SMEs to microfinance in the participating regions by sharing and exchanging the local knowledge on innovative solutions.

www.interregeurope.eu/atmforsmes

An interregional cooperation project for improving SME competitiveness policies

Project Partners

European Microfinance Network - EMN aisbl (BE)
KIZ SINNOVA company for social innovation GmbH (DE)
European Business and Innovation Centre of Burgos (CEEI-Burgos) (ES)
PORA Regional Development Agency of Podravina and Prigrorje for Promotion and Implementation of Development Activities in Koprivnica Krizevci County (HR)
Fejér Enterprise Agency (HU)
Ministry for National Economy Deputy State Secretariat Responsible for Implementing Economic Development Programs (HU)
Zala County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion (HU)
Autonomous Region of Sardinia - Regional Department for Planning (IT)
Microfinance Norway (NO)
Świętokrzyskie Region – Marshal Office of Świętokrzyskie Region (PL)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

The lack of access to credit and financial exclusion can be a serious obstacle to business creation in many European regions. **Microfinancing of SMEs and support to social entrepreneurship is an already tested and proven tool** which can

contribute to a high level of quality and sustainable employment, reducing disparities and poverty; and thus contributing to the realization of the « Inclusive growth » priority of the Europe 2020 strategy.

There is a wide variety of microfinance programs across Europe, however, there are significant differences in how these microfinance initiatives reach their target groups. Therefore, the “ATM for SMEs” project, implemented through the INTERREG Europe programme, is aiming at

IMPROVING THE ACCESS TO MICROFINANCE IN THE PARTICIPATING REGIONS BY SHARING AND EXCHANGING THE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ON INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.

The “ATM for SMEs” consortium is lead by Fejér Enterprise Agency (HU) and is characterized by a balanced proportion of managing authorities and microfinance institutions, and a European level advisory partner.

The intensive interregional policy exchange and learning process, planned in the framework of the project, allows the gathering of evidence on the feasibility of these good practices, and capitalising on the experience accumulated in the participating regions.

THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IS DIVIDED INTO 2 PHASES:

PHASE I.

36 months

Phase I is characterised by an intensive interregional learning process, allowing the partners to exchange good practices and experiences on policy implementation. By the end of phase I, the regional partners will prepare in total **9 action plans in order to integrate and deploy good practices** learnt from interregional cooperation within the identified regional or national policies. The influence of the project can be demonstrated by the **generation of new projects** – tackling at enterprise development or improving the access to local microfinance programs – **and improved management of the policy instruments** by adopting new approaches in the way calls are organized and assessment methodologies are developed.

PHASE II.

24 months

Phase II is about the monitoring of the implementation of the regional action plans in each participating region.

The project indicators show that the successful implementation of the project will influence 626 million EUR of Structural Funds related policies and 0,6 million EUR of other policies. The most important result of the project is the improvement of the 9 identified policy instruments.





The project consortium at the 2nd Steering Group meeting in Offenbach (DE), on 23 October 2016



The **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

of the project is to improve the implementation of policies addressing enterprise development or sustainable employment in the participating regions, so that they can contribute to a better access to local microfinance programs for SMEs and self-entrepreneurs.

The project will enable regional authorities and business development organizations to develop adequate local responses to one of the key obstacles that start-ups and self-entrepreneurs are facing, i.e. the lack of credit, business development services, and financial exclusion.

As a **HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE**, the project will address the issue of facilitating the access to microfinancing and enterprise development services for the members of specific target groups at risk of discrimination and financial exclusion, e.g. people who have disadvantaged position at the labour market, women.

TWO OPERATIONAL SUB-OBJECTIVES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE REALIZATION OF THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

To facilitate the interregional learning and exchange of experiences, practices among regional authorities and enterprise development institutions in terms of improving the access for local microfinance programs for priority groups; and reduce financial exclusion.

To support the capitalization and the deploying of the experiences and lessons learnt from interregional cooperation among actors of regional relevance, through the generation of new projects or the better management of their policies and strategies.

RESULT INDICATORS	TARGET
No. of Growth & Jobs or ETC programmes addressed by the project where measures inspired by the project will be implemented 100% of policy instruments addressed with structural funds link	6
No. of other policy instruments addressed by the project where measures inspired by the project will be implemented 100% of policy instruments addressed without structural funds link	3
Estimated amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and/ or ETC) influenced by the project (in EUR)	466.3 million €
Estimated amount of other funds influenced (in EUR)	5.7 million €

OUTPUT INDICATORS	TARGET
No. of policy learning events organised	116
No. of good practices identified	90
No. of people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities	118
No. of action plans developed	10
No. of appearances in media (e.g. press)	36
No. of new visitors to project website since last reporting period	300

PROJECT MESSAGE

The “ATM for SMEs” project perceives microfinancing as a key factor for inclusive growth in the regions and therefore it improves the local policy environment in order to generate new projects and initiatives in the field of microfinance.

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