



26th SEPTEMBER '23

FINAL EVENT:

LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
POLICY MAKERS FROM THE COSME-FUNDED
FLAGSHIP PROJECTS 'STARS' AND 'RESTARTSMES'

Final Policy Recommendations

Daniel Cosnita (reSTART SMEs)

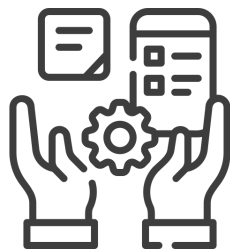
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European Committee
of the Regions



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(Non financial) Support

Policy recommendations



ReStartSMEs has received funding from the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), under grant agreement No. 1011037910



Integrated Guided Mechanisms to support Technology Adoption



Accompany the SME technological journey **from idea to market application**

Different instruments: innovation & technology audits, competence mapping

Individual and institutional learning processes

Targeted Resource Provision

There is “no one fit for all” measure

By segmenting resources, SMEs can access tools and assistance that are directly aligned with their **current stage of development**, ensuring **more efficient and targeted support**

Peer Local Support to address Regional Differences and Impact on accessing New Technologies

Peer support at a local level to address the different resources in the **same language and context can be very effective to facilitate the adoption of new technologies by SMEs.**

Establishing local support centres

Targeted and Effective Communication for Resource Accessibility

Exchange of best practices and showcase technology implementation success

Targeted communication strategies that are tailored to the specific needs and preferences of SMEs



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Financing

Policy recommendations



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○ Funding and Financial Incentives targeted to SME Needs

Need for targeted financial packages or grants tailored explicitly for technology adoption within SMEs. These could include low-interest loans, tax breaks for tech-related investments, or direct grants.

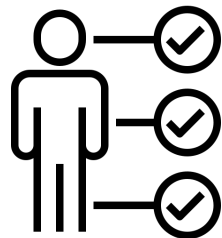
○ Enhancing SME Access to Combined Financing in EU Policies

While the flexibility of combining financing (financial instruments, grants) offers advantages, policymakers must consider streamlining and simplifying the application and reporting procedures to ensure that SMEs can effectively harness these opportunities without being overwhelmed by excessive bureaucracy



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Capacity Development

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○ Comprehensive Digital Skills Development

Targeted Training Programmes

The different levels of digital maturity should be considered

○ Upskilling of Clusters/Tech Centres to provide Effective Guidance to SMEs

As many differences in resources, levels of maturity and expertise have been identified from different clusters, the resource allocation to fulfill the EU challenges would need to be offered not only to SMEs, but sometimes to clusters

Establishment of competence centres at the level of clusters

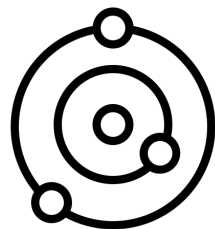
Subset of the Cluster Excellence Programme to develop specific business & technology skills;

Circular Business Models throughout the manufacturing value chain



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Innovation Ecosystems

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○ Regional Involvement of Regional Stakeholders to achieve more Effective Results

All Business is Local (Adam Smith)

It is essential to **engage and mobilize the adequate regional stakeholders** considering the contextual, cultural and linguistical differences and relevance of agents

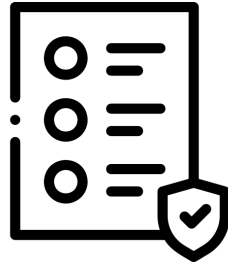
○ Integration of SMEs into Regional Innovation Ecosystems

Encourage SMEs to actively participate in established ecosystems like Clusters, Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH), Open Innovation TestBeds (OITB) and other industry networks and associations. By being integral parts of these networks, SMEs can benefit from shared knowledge, collaborative opportunities, and a unified push towards technological adoption



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Policies and mechanisms

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Identification and Improvement of Synergies between Policies and Mechanisms

Alignment between the agencies as the creation of platforms, communities of practice or other complementary resources that explain the difference between the mechanisms and how they tailor to the different SMEs needs can be very positive.

Integrated Portal for Resources and Opportunities

Continuity and engagement of policies and mechanisms

Establish pathways between funding and network opportunities to build upon developed sustainability plans to avoid short-term projects with low impact

Allow mechanisms, roadmaps and incentives to ensure the sustainability and transfer of project results beyond the scope of the project.

Ensuring the continuity of strategic alliances (such as STARS, restart SMEs)



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reSTART
SMEs



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