



Adding the SME Dimension

How to support SME Policies with Structural Funds

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Why are SMEs important ?

- + 99,7% of all companies
- + 70 % of EU value add creation
- + 2/3rd of employment
- + 85% of all new jobs created

BUT

- lack of entrepreneurial attitudes in most countries
- not enough access to financial means
- too much bureaucracy

The European SBA – Small Business Act

- + A set of politically binding principles
- + A package of concrete measures (legislative and non-legislative)
- + An implementation mechanism embedded in the EU 2020 strategy

in order to

- 1 - Improve the overall policy approach to entrepreneurship
- 2 - Anchor the “Think Small First” principle in policy-making
- 3 - Promote SMEs’ growth

10 politically binding principles

- 1. Create an environment for entrepreneurs and family businesses to thrive and entrepreneurship to be rewarded**
- 2. Ensure that honest entrepreneurs who have faced bankruptcy quickly get a second Chance**
- 3. Design rules according to the “Think Small First” principle**
- 4. Make public administrations responsive to SMEs’ needs**
- 5. Facilitate SMEs’ participation in Public Procurement and better use State Aid possibilities for SMEs**

10 politically binding principles (ctd.)

- 6. Facilitate SMEs' access to finance and support timely payments in commercial transactions**
- 7. Help SMEs to benefit more from the opportunities offered by the Single Market**
- 8. Promote the upgrading of skills in SMEs and all forms of innovation**
- 9. Enable SMEs to turn environmental challenges into opportunities**
- 10. Encourage and support SMEs to benefit from the growth of markets**

The SME Envoys



EU SME-Envoy

The 28 national SME-Envoys (incl. HR)



Role and Tasks

Inside

- *watchdog function*
(→ *Think Small First*)
- *burden reduction* (→ *SME Test*)
- *Co-ordination of Public Services*
- *Identify and spread Good Practices*
- *Build links*

Outside

- **Dialogue with SME organisations**
- **Inform and Communicate with "SME Public"**
- **Focal point for complaints & suggestions**
- **Collect Feedback on new initiatives & legislation**
- **Facilitate Access to SME Programs & Support**

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



European Commission in cooperation with a European level Support Office (SO) and intermediary organisations (IOs) at national / regional level

coordination
support
matching

Practical induction

1 – 6 months stay
abroad

**New
entrepreneur**

going abroad to learn
from an experienced
entrepreneur

**Experienced
host
entrepreneur**

established in
another EU country

Learning on the job, exchange of
experience, market access,
networking, intercultural learning



EU Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors



- ❑ **Model: national networks in Sweden and UK**
- ❑ **First Phase launched In October 2009 in Stockholm with 10 Member States**
- ❑ **Second phase launched on Dec 2011 in Brussels: 12 additional countries**
- ❑ **The Current Network consists of 270 ambassadors in 22 participating countries**



European Commission



European Commission Enterprise and Industry

European Commission > Enterprise and Industry > Policies > ... Small Business Act - Database of good practices



Small Business Act - Database of good practices

- Enterprise and Industry
- Small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Small Business Act - Database of good practices
 - Good Practice list
 - Login
- Privacy statement
- Help
- Charter for Small Enterprises
- European Enterprise Awards
- EuroMed Good Practices

Search

Country:

SBA policy area:

Text:

Year of submission:

Source-:

Good Practices Found : 35

- Please select ...
- Expert Group
- European Enterprise Awards
- Enterprise Policy Group
- European Charter for Small Enterprises
- SBA implementation in member states

Country (All)	Title	Year of submission	SBA policy area	Translations
<input type="checkbox"/> AT	ProTRANS, Programm zur Förderung von strategischer Produktfindung, Innovationsmanagement und Technologietransfer für KMU	2011	8	de
<input type="checkbox"/> IT	Opening 2 Foreign Markets (O2FoMa)	2011	7	it
<input type="checkbox"/> IT	WE TECH OFF - build your future	2011	1.2	it
<input type="checkbox"/> IT	Scuolav Projec	2011	1.1	it
<input type="checkbox"/> IT	CSR good practices in Lombardia	2011	10	it
<input type="checkbox"/> PT	Projecto Promoção do Empreendedorismo Imigrante - PEI	2011	1.4	pt
<input type="checkbox"/> AT	business pro austria (bpa)	2011	8	de en fr
<input type="checkbox"/> AT	"Mingo Finance" - individual coaching on enterprise financing	2011	6.1	de en fr



European SME Week

European umbrella for campaign activities throughout Europe

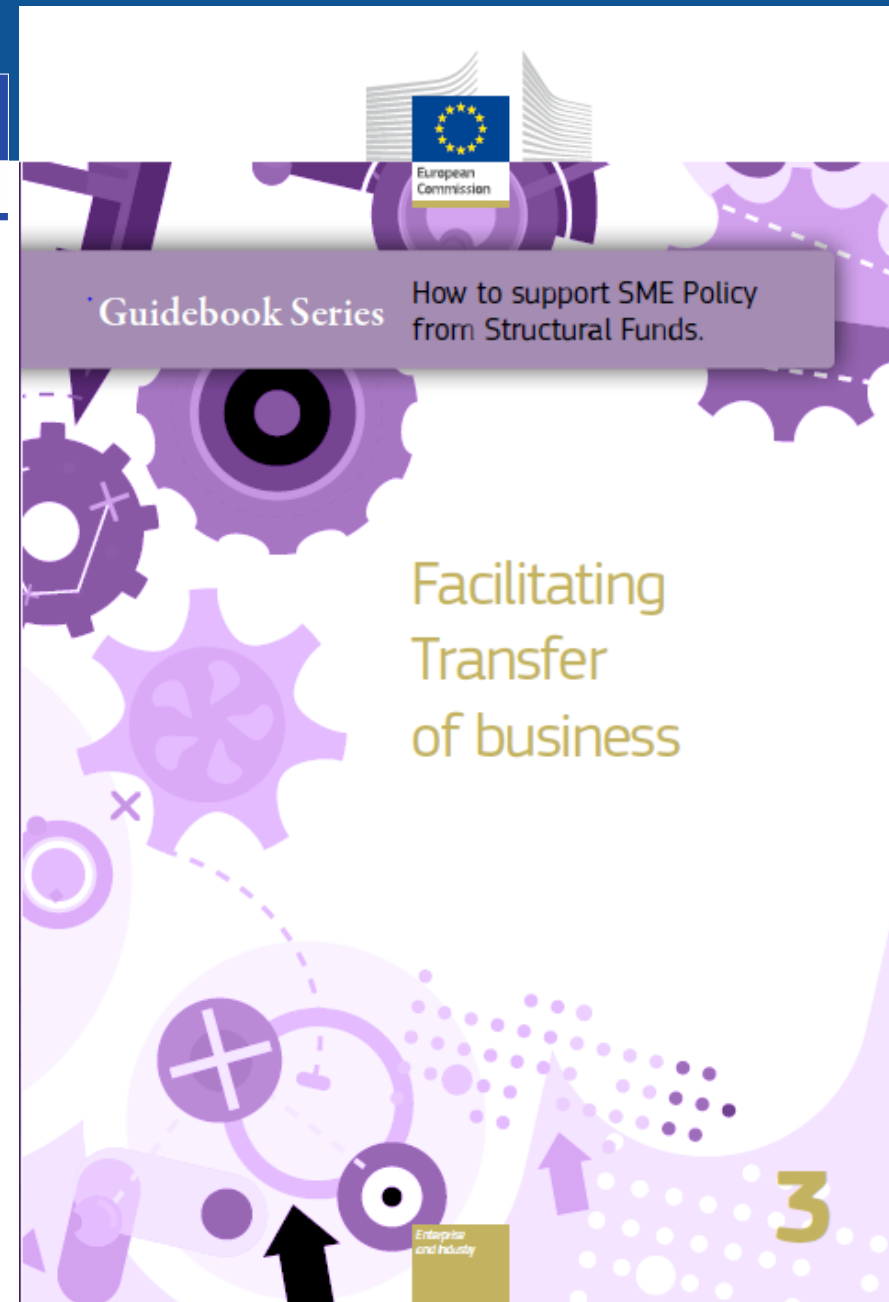
- *Conferences / workshops*
- *Open days*
- *Public events*

With the objective of

- *informing about available EU and national support*
- *promoting entrepreneurship in the public at large*

Guidebook Series

- **Short layout of the relevant EU Policy**
- **Presenting a number of actions to be taken**
- **Potential for funding from EU Structural Funds**
- **List of Current topics :**
 - *How to support SME Policy from SF*
 - *Transfer of Businesses*
 - *Entrepreneurship Education*
 - *Service Innovation*
 - *SME Standardisation*
 - *Regional SBA implementation*



SBA implementation at regional level (2)

A number of regions have indicated their intentions

**Only one region has a full implementation :
Catalunya (ES)**

**11 regions had signed up for regional
implementation of the Small Business
Charter**

Guidebook in preparation



Co-operation with the EEN - Enterprise Europe Network

EU Network offering high quality services to the benefit of SMEs

- *Organizing business cooperation across borders*
- *Help accessing EU projects and funding*
- *Advising on EU legislation, standards and intellectual property rights*
- *Assist SMEs in raising their innovative capacities*
- *Support to going international*
- *Collecting SME feedback to legislative initiatives*

→ **The EU presence on the ground**



Business Support at Your Doorstep

**almost 600
regional
organisations
More than 4.000
experienced
professionals
active in over 35
European
countries and
beyond**

Examples of cooperation

1) Agreement of Network partners with ERDF Managing Authorities for Joint Actions (Pomorskie Region, PL)

- *Services*
 - Common Info days
 - Increasing visibility of infrastructures financed by ERDF
 - Finding international / EU 27 partners

2) Network partners as hosts of funding programmes (Thuringen Region, DE)

- *Services*
 - Advice for regional SMEs and research organisations
 - Partner search abroad via the EEN Network databases and Sector Groups
 - Joint company missions to indentify partners for the projects in other MS

Examples of cooperation

3) Network partners as technical support consultants for the preparation of the operational Programmes (Dytiki Macedonia, GR)

- *Services*

- Preparation of projects for JESSICA, INTERREG IVC funding
 - Dissemination of output and good practices

4) Network partners as experts on seminars on Financing SMEs, organised by ERDF managing Authorities (Moravia – Silesia Region, CZ)

5) Network partners supporting entrepreneurial and innovation culture (Calabria Region, IT)



SME Portal

<http://ec.europa.eu/small-business>

Entrepreneurship Education

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/training_education/index.htm

Enterprise Europe Network

<http://enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu>

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

<http://erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu>

European Cluster collaboration Platform

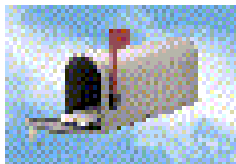
<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/home>

SME Policy Guidebook Series

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/regional-sme-policies>

SBA

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sba_en.htm



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