

Policy Learning Platform online discussion
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Raising the competitiveness of rural SMEs in the COVID-19 context



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What is a PLP online discussion?



- Open discussion in a small peer group (invite and request only)
- Bottom up, demand driven
- There are no right or wrong answers, no right or wrong questions
- Discussion will not be made public

Why are we tackling this topic?

„Raising the competitiveness of rural SMEs in the COVID-19 context“



- It is **relevant** to our community and other policy makers - “*Support to SME competitiveness in rural areas*” has been the second most popular choice in our last two user surveys.
- Various **Interreg Europe projects** are tackling competitiveness of rural SMEs:
 - SARURE and EXTRA-SMEs are ongoing
 - INNOGROW, Rural Growth, Islands of Innovation have been extended
 - Active alumni from SKILLS+, GROW RUP, SOCENT SPAs, P-IRIS, RATIO
- It is a **cross-cutting topic** that links into transformation, economic resilience, social economy, ecosystem building, tourism and so on and resonates with many project partners
- The COVID-19 crisis has brought new challenges, but perhaps also opportunities, for rural areas

Today's agenda

Introduction and getting to know each other

Good practice presentations

- **Financial program for Rural Development of SME's** by Bitti Alvin Lehmann, business advisor and project manager at Swedish ESF-council in Central Norrland, SARURE project
- **Rychla Rada (Quick Advice)** by Jan Skipala, project manager at Chamber of Commerce Regional Chamber of Commerce Moravia – Silesia, SKILLS+ project

Short statements and roundtable discussion

- Rural Growth project – represented by project partner Pellervo Kokkonen from Savonlinna Development Services Ltd
- FOUNDATION project and Finnish case study – represented by project partner Ossi Kotavaara from Kerttu Saalasti Institute, University of Oulu
- Open microphone

Next steps



Getting to each other

„Raising the competitiveness of rural SMEs in the COVID-19 context“



Please introduce yourself

- Name
- Organization
- Interreg Europe project name (if applicable)
- Why does the topic interest you?



Policy Learning Platform



Knowledge hub

Good practice database

Policy briefs & publications



Community of peers

Networking and events



Expert policy support

Peer reviews

Matchmaking sessions

Policy help desk





Online learning possibilities



A rich agenda
with webinars,
workshops &
community events



+2500 good practices
from all over Europe
validated by our
experts



Policy briefs
with insights into
key factors for
successful policy making



Policy Digest
a collection of
relevant policy
making resources

Related materials



Regional Branding for SME success



A Policy Brief from the Policy Learning Platform on SME competitiveness

SEPTEMBER 2021

How to boost entrepreneurship in rural areas?



A Policy Brief from the Policy Learning Platform on SME competitiveness

APRIL 2020

Webinar on building resilient economies

Policy Learning Platform



JUN
17
2020

Next events



On 1 February 2022 from 14:00 to 16:00 CET, the Policy Learning Platform is hosting an interactive webinar on financial instruments for the circular economy.

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/event/4968/>

Upcoming: **Evolution of the agri-food sector** (online workshop) (mid-March, date TBC)



Expert support

Personalised policy advice



Peer reviews

- 2-day onsite or online meetings
- Team up with 4-5 peers from other regions for input and feedback

- 2-hour online or onsite meeting
- Team up with 2-3 peers from other organisations for input and feedback

Matchmaking sessions

Policy helpdesk

Individual written reply from an expert