



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023, ISSUE 2

WELCOME TO THE ESG-UP PROJECT!

ESG-UP – Strategic partnership to up-skill European SMEs in the development of Environmental, Social and Governance strategies is a 24-month Erasmus+ project (February 2022 – February 2024) with the main objective to address the training and knowledge gaps of SMEs in sustainability practices to become more competitive and resilient. The project will focus on training responsible professionals among the SMEs on how to operate business sustainably by integrating ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) objectives and measurements into their business model.

DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit our website!

<https://esg-up.erasmus.site/>

Follow us in social media!



2nd Partners Meeting in Spain

We are excited to share that our project's second Transnational Partners Meeting was successfully held from the 3rd to 5th of April 2023 in Valencia, Spain. Partners from Ireland, Greece, Spain, Poland and Sweden met in person to discuss and define the next steps for our project's two critical results: Project Result 2: Training Package and Project Result 3: Panorama of Sustainable Business Practices and Self-Assessment Tool.

The meeting was a significant milestone in our project's progress, where partners collaborated and shared insights on how to create an effective training package that addresses the need for education and training in the area of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) sustainability. Additionally, we discussed the development of a panorama of sustainable business practices and self-assessment tool to help SMEs improve their sustainability practices.

We are confident that the outcomes of our meeting will pave the way for more effective and sustainable practices in the business sector. Stay tuned for more updates on our project's progress and impact!

COMING SOON...

Training package

We are also happy to announce that the training package will be ready soon! One of the key outcomes, Project Result 2, is a training package that aims to provide education and training in the area of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) sustainability, and enable professionals from cross-sector SMEs to develop better sustainable practices.

This comprehensive training package is designed to address three main needs, including the need to upskill in the field of ESG and sustainability, the need to coordinate and further develop collaboration and peer learning in implementing sustainable actions, and the need to build resilience and competitiveness amongst EU SMEs through sustainable business models.

The training package will consist of two parts. The first part, R2.1, will provide guidelines and practical training pills on sustainable business practices, including theoretical concepts, summary of main standards and certification systems, different circular business models, innovation with sustainability, financing sustainable business, and recovery and resilience. These materials will be hosted on an online training platform, optimizing existing resources and providing easy access to a large audience of SMEs.

The second part, R2.2, will provide guidelines for collaboration and peer learning, including a Cluster dimension. This will serve as a place where people can meet, exchange, and link with other EU programmes supporting SMEs, such as the Enterprise Europe Network and SME support services. Through this service, SMEs will be able to build new connections, review their supply chain, and develop better inclusive and integral fully sustainable plans to be applied internally and externally.

We look forward to sharing more updates on our project's outcomes and impact in the future.

Best Practices and the self-assessment tool

We are also working on PR3, the Panorama of Best Practices and the self-assessment tool. The Panorama of Best Practices will allow SMEs to consult different practices in the field of ESG for different areas (e.g., ethics, logistics, education, research, etc.) and for different sectors (e.g., fashion, utilities, construction, banking, etc.). In this way, the SMEs will be able to get inspired by these practices and replicate them, improving their ESG strategy and performance.

The self-assessment tool will provide a real time initial evaluation of the sustainable performance of SMEs ESG strategies. Users will evaluate if their implementation has a minimum quality and is well oriented. Besides, questions made will allow the delivery of a score, pushing SMEs to go further in the acquisition of knowledge to better their performance.

Currently, we have already selected the 120 best practices that will conform to the Panorama, and we are working on the development of the self-assessment content. Stay tuned to get to know the result!

MEET THE PARTNERSHIP



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.