

Thematic workshop

Facilitating SMEs to go international, an opportunity to implement innovative solutions, create growth and jobs while providing better services

Brussels, Committee of the Regions (*rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels, Room JDE 3253, 3rd floor*)

30 June 2017, 09.00-17.00

AGENDA

09:00 – 09:30	Registration and coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome from the Policy Learning Platform on SME competitiveness team. <i>Short presentation on the services provided by the Policy Learning Platform and overview of the workshop objectives and agenda</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Interactive introductory exercise: <i>Participants introduce themselves and provide information on their interest and involvement in the topic of the Thematic Workshop</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Mapping regions' challenges for needs for adapting the supporting ecosystem to the need of the internationalisation <i>Moderated discussion in break-out groups. Participants switching between the two sub-topics. A list of guiding questions will be prepared by the Policy Learning Platform team:</i> ▪ <i>Shortage of working capital to finance export;</i> ▪ <i>Lack of managerial time to deal with internationalisation;</i> ▪ <i>Untrained personnel;</i> ▪ <i>Limited information and resources to locate/analyse markets and identify foreign business opportunities.</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:05	Reflection on how internationalisation is addressed in Operational Programmes (representative of the SME competitiveness Team) - discussion
12:05 – 12:35	Presentation of DG Grow initiatives on internationalisation (<i>ESCP4-I project + ECCP project</i>) – Discussion (<i>speakers DG GROW + coordinator ESCP4-I on Agrifood</i>)
12:35 – 13:45	Networking lunch

13:45 – 15:00	Session on specific thematic areas ▪ <i>Working group 1: improved governance</i> ▪ <i>Improvement of regional governance models with respect to internationalisation support;</i> ▪ <i>Capacity building in the project regions and their relevant support organisations;</i> ▪ <i>Multiple stakeholder approaches to internationalisation.</i> ▪ <i>Working group 2: instruments</i> ▪ <i>Role of regional networks and clusters as instruments able to foster the internationalisation of SMEs.</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 16:00	Interactive panel discussion on effective approaches, practices and policy measures on internationalisation
16:00 – 16:15	Reporting back from the break-out groups
16:15 – 16:45	Defining Roadmap for collaboration
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap-up and conclusions