

Press release

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European regional cooperation promotes SME internationalisation in Hampshire

Organisations from across Hampshire, with partners from six other regions across Europe, gathered in Aarhus, Denmark, on June 27-28 to identify ways that business support services can effectively support medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to internationalise.

This event forms part of the Interreg Europe funded project *Everywhere International SMEs (EIS)*, which will run until the end of 2020 and followed the project launch held in Hampshire, UK, earlier this year.

In the opening session, Project Manager John Fitzgibbon explained:

“All seven regions have a shared ambition to support SMEs to internationalise and recognise the significant benefits this can bring – more sustainable businesses, job creation and greater economic growth.

Each region has its own specific challenges to driving forward greater internationalisation. Some are further ahead in overcoming these– with comprehensive mechanisms established to support SMEs – whereas others are just starting to put the right building blocks in place. Common to all, however, is the desire to learn from one another - and apply that learning to see a step change in SME internationalisation.”

By the end of the project, each partner will have developed and implemented an action plan to deliver more effective business support for SMEs seeking to internationalise.

An evidence-based ‘EIS tool’ will be also developed, bringing together examples of best practice from business support services across participating regions on overcoming challenges to internationalisation. In this way, the project will not only scrutinise and optimise partner regions’ existing business support services, but will provide a universal tool that can be used to benefit other European regions.

Note to editors

According to the European Commission, SMEs who internationalise are more robust, create more jobs and innovate more. At the same time SMEs are facing many challenges to internationalise. It is these challenges that are dealt with through the business support services which EIS is targeting.

EIS brings together nine partners from seven different European regions from the UK, Denmark, Ireland, Croatia, Portugal, Poland and Italy and runs until the end of 2020. The next partner meeting will be taking place in the region of Pomerania, Poland, in September.

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