



Educational package for SMEs to increase their innovation capabilities and productivity

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The EPIC project is implemented by a consortium of 7 partners – an innovation consulting company, an adult training and consulting provider, three training and business consultancy organizations, a manufacturing company, and a business association from 7 countries (Hungary, United Kingdom, Cyprus, Portugal, Greece, Slovakia, Romania).

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The importance of innovation for SMEs is widely recognized. Innovation boosts productivity and facilitates substantial growth in sales. Survival rates are also higher in SMEs that innovate, for the simple reason that they are flexible and better able to adapt to challenging market conditions. The EPIC project consortium develops a complex educational package that helps SMEs to increase their innovation capabilities and productivity based on the content of the technical specification of the CEN/TS 16555 1-7 “Innovation management” European standard family for both middle/top and innovation managers of SMEs and for any employees taking part in innovation projects or processes

MAIN AREAS

- Enterprise, industry, and SMEs (incl. entrepreneurship)
- Entrepreneurial learning – entrepreneurship education
- Research and innovation

TARGET GROUPS:

- 1.) middle / top / innovation managers of SMEs
- 2.) employees in other positions who take part in innovation process(es) or project(s) in SMEs

TARGET GROUPS ARE INVOLVED IN:

- 1.) Research, face to face interviews (5 managers per country = in total 35) and questionnaire (30 employees taking part in innovation processes per country = in total 210 employees)
- 2.) External testing of the complex educational package: 20 employees per country = in total 140 employees
- 3.) As participants of multiplier events: there will be 7 multiplier events in 7 countries. In total there will be 215 participants at the multiplier events.
- 4.) As target groups of dissemination

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

- IO1: Study of innovation management skills / competencies / knowledge
– 7 National research reports, Research summary report (research methodology, questionnaires, and preliminary questions), Short research report
- IO2: Online self-assessment tools – 5 online self-assessment tools, 5 facilitator guides
- IO3: Training package – Training material, 12 best practices, 18 practical group exercises, Offline interactive training kit

IMPACTS

Short-term impacts: To acquire new ways of thinking and acting, and be equipped with the competencies, methods, and skills to implement effective innovation management structures tailored to the SME's specific needs.

Long-term impacts: The partners' extended networks, (e.g., educators, SMEs, and clusters) will be better connected, thus bridging the gap that often divides the fields of education and industry – participants will be able to pinpoint personal and organizational development needs to improve and develop their approach to innovation, especially if supported by training resources.



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