EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS
PROFILE & PORTFOLIO OF THE
BARCELONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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WHO ARE WE?  
The Barcelona Chamber of Commerce Figures

Founded in 1886, the Barcelona Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Navigation is one of the most representative institutions of Catalan Civil Society and a reference of first order in the business community and the socio-economic area.

Entrepreneurs, freelance workers, SMEs and corporations, altogether make up the Barcelona Chamber. We work with all kinds of companies, regardless of type, size or sector.

39,000 Members form our customer’s community

12 Offices in 10 Catalan towns

+35,000 Club Cambra’s Members

+2,200 m€ “Funding “la Caixa” Club Cambra
+2,500 “Funding “la Caixa” Club Cambra’s members

+300,000 emails contacts

+50 Club Cambra’s Seminars and Workshops

+2,000 Club Cambra’s Seminars attendees

+25,000 Contacts in the online community

+55,000 Contacts in Open line “la Caixa”

+2,000 Contacts in Trade Fairs of Fira Barcelona

+668 Club Cambra “la Caixa” Visa cards
WHAT DO WE OFFER?
Resources and competences to be a key partner

The Barcelona Chamber is a key partner when it comes to cooperation at national and international level. We have a broad experience participating in international projects funded by the European Union, acting both as coordinator and as partner.

In terms of staff capacity, the Barcelona Chamber has, in its headquarters and local delegations, up to 110 highly qualified professionals providing services to SMEs with extensive knowledge, experience and availability.

Through its companies’ network, the Chamber has a huge potential to disseminate project results and outputs. We have experience organizing large events at the “Casa Llotja de Mar” building, its wide variety of rooms make it the perfect place for hosting all kinds of business events, such as presentations, lunches and gala dinners, conferences and press briefings. The participation in European projects allows the Chamber to test and transfer good practices on the acquired knowledge to its Catalan entities network, in order to improve their competitiveness and skills.

From the European Projects Office we coordinate all projects, ensuring the best performance at technical, dissemination and financial/administrative level.

STUDIES

We work as a permanent observatory of environmental changes and publish landmark studies on key infrastructures and socioeconomic issues

- ECONOMIC STUDIES UNIT
- DATA RESEARCH
- MACRO AND MICROECONOMIC STATISTICS
- ABILITY TO ACCESS & USE LARGE DATA
- BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS
WHAT DO WE OFFER?
Resources and competences to be a key partner

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

110 highly qualified professionals providing services to SMEs with extensive knowledge, experience and availability.

- MODELS & METHODS
- TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS
- TRAINING RESOURCES
- TESTING & EVALUATION EXPERTISE
- CUSTOMER ORIENTED SERVICES

DISSEMINATION

We organise events that foster connections between relevant stakeholders across the country. We promote mutual knowledge, dialogue and exchange of ideas. We arrange press conferences and provide permanent information from our digital channels.

- BUSINESS SPACES & ROOMS
- EVENTS ORGANIZATION UNIT
- NETWORKING SOLUTIONS
- PRESS UNIT
- DIGITAL MARKETING & COMMUNICATION UNIT
- DIGITAL MARKETING CONTENTS & CHANNELS

TRANSFER

We perform outreach work with companies, visiting them to gain first-hand information on their needs.

- KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER TO COMMUNITIES
- CAPITALIZATION OF RESULTS
WHAT DO WE OFFER?
Resources and competences to be a key partner

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The European Projects Office manages and coordinates international projects in which the Chamber is involved and provides assistance and information about available programmes and calls for proposals.

- EUROPEAN PROJECTS OFFICE
- FINANCIAL PLANS
- INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS
- ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTIFICATION SPECIALIZED UNIT
The Barcelona Chamber is a suitable partner in cooperative industrial projects that are focused on research and innovative development activities; implementing actions such as feasibility studies, industrial research, industrial development activities, innovation activities and international cooperation actions.

We offer services to SMEs and have strong technical knowledge in the following fields: Business & Innovation; Marketplaces; Talent; ICT; Funding; Mediation & Diplomacy.

**BUSINESS & INNOVATION**

Encouraging entrepreneurs and companies to create innovative businesses

- Innovation
- Fiscal deductions on R&D activities
- Entrepreneurship
- Women entrepreneurs
- Assessment
- Energy and resource efficiency
- Infrastructures
- Quality
- Trade
- Retail
- Tourism
- Business strategy
- Clusters
WHAT ARE OUR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE?
6 technical areas we have strong knowledge

MARKETS

We work with markets from around the world and support companies that wish to internationalize their activities. We help you find customers, providers, partners and distributors abroad.

- Business internationalization
- Trade Missions
- Trade promotion
- Brokerage events
- Landing services
- Europe & Russia
- North & Latin America
- Asia
- Africa & Middle East
- Mediterranean countries

TALENT

We train business owners, executives and employees. We schedule face-to-face and online courses. We design customized training courses that can be carried out inside your company.

- Vocational training
- Professional skills & profiles
- Training needs
- Training materials
- Incompany training
- Online training
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Vocational orientation
- Job searching
WHAT IS OUR EXPERTISE?
6 technical areas we have strong knowledge

ICT

We boost companies online presence and e-commerce solutions. We bring technology closer and guide enterprises to implement new technical solutions.

- Electronic signature
- eCommerce
- Databases
- Websites
- Digital marketing

Funding

We provide guidance to companies with regards to financial products and European funding opportunities

- Financial advice
- Banking products
- Alternative financing

Mediation & Diplomacy

We help negotiate agreements and contribute to the prevention and settlement of conflicts between businesses.

- Mediation
- Arbitration
- Corporate Diplomacy
WHICH ARE OUR KEY MARKETS?
7 strategic sectors we are interested in

The Catalan strategy for smart specialization (RIS3CAT), is organized around **seven leading sectors and 3 key vectors driving** economic transformation (industry tradition, quality of life and green economy) that could be the key to economic recovery and pave the road towards a growth model that is more intelligent, sustainable and inclusive.

- Food and beverages
- Energy and resources
- Industrial systems
- Design-based industries
- Industries related to sustainable mobility
- Health industries
- Cultural industries based on experience, including Tourism

We have the ability to access any type of business: **from SMEs to multinationals**

The Barcelona Chamber offers, amongst its services, **studies on trends** in specific sectors such as transport, tourism, renewable energies, etc., promoting innovative models. We also develop quantitative methodologies to **analyse the feasibility of new products and markets** and **market intelligence**.
The Chamber participates in European Projects that focus on a wide number of fields, thanks to our large network of contacts in different thematic areas.

The Barcelona Chamber plays an active and important role in international networks. We uphold relations with businesses, other chambers of commerce, institutions, universities, Public Administrations, associations, business schools and companies at international, national and local level.
WHO IS ON OUR NETWORK?
Always close to organisations and companies

**International & national Chambers**
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - World Chambers Federation (WCF)
- Eurochambres
- Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)
- Asociación Iberoamericana de Cámaras de Comercio (AICO)
- Cámara de Comercio de España
- Consell General de Cambres de Catalunya

**International networks & institutions**
- Enterprise Europe Network (part of the Catalan EEN node)
- Knowledge Innovation Market Barcelona
- Associació Internacional per a la Protecció de la Propietat Industrial (Spanish Group)

**Technology Centers & Universities**
- Barcelona Digital Centre Tecnològic
- Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
- Fundació Universitat Nova de la Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- Associació d’Amics de la UPC
- Conferència General del Consell Interuniversitari de Catalunya
- Institut d’Educació Contínua de la Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- Ponència del Campus Tecnològic i Empresarial de Barcelona de la UPC

**Research, studies & statistics centers & institutions**
- Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània
- Centre d’Estudis Internacionals (CEI)
- Institut d' Estadística de Catalunya
- Fundació Centro para el Estudio del Transporte en el Mediterráneo Occidental
- Fundació Barcelona Formació Professional
- Asociación para el Progreso de la Dirección (Zona Mediterránea)
- Agència d’Informació Avaluació i Qualitat en Salut
- Escola Superior de Comerç Internacional
- Institut d’Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona
- Associació Barcelona Centre Financer Europeu
WHO IS ON OUR NETWORK?
Always close to organisations and companies

Sectorial associations & institutions
- Turisme de Barcelona
- Tribunal Arbitral de Barcelona
- Barcelona Design Centre (BCD)
- Gestió i Promoció Aeroportuària, SA (GPA)
- Mercat Carni
- Associació Espanyola de Tresorers d`Empresa
- Consorci de Turisme de Barcelona
- Barcelona Aeronàutica i de l`Espai
- Fundació Societat de Tècnics d`Automoció (STA)
- Barcelona Centre Logístic
- Barcelona Centre Mèdic
- Foro de la Industria Nuclear Española (FORO NUCLEAR)
- Consorci El Far centre de treballs del mar

Trans-sectorial associations of enterprises
- Associació Catalana per a l`Arbitratge
- Unió de Polígons Industrials de Catalunya
- Consorci de la Zona Franca
- Autoritat Portuària de Barcelona

Business schools
- ESADE
- Escola d`Administració d`Empreses (EAE)

Enterprises & Banks
- Caixa d`Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona
- AC Camerfirma, S.A
- Camerdata
- Fira 2000
- TÜV Rheinland S.L-Entitat de Certificació de Sistemes de Gestió Mediambiental
WHO IS ON OUR NETWORK?
Always close to organisations and companies

Foundations

- Fundació Barcelona Promoció
- Fundació Catalana de Seguretat Viària
- Fundació Narcís Monturiol
- Fundació Privada per la Navegació Oceànica Barcelona
- Fundació PuntCat
- Fundación Instituto Cameral para la Creación y Desarrollo de la Empresa (Incyde)
- Femarec (Fundació Privada)

Environment institutions

- Fundación Empresa & Clima
- Consell Municipal del Medi Ambient i Sostenibilitat (Ajuntament de Barcelona)

Cultural institutions & Mass media

- Fundació Conservatori Liceu
- Fundació Privada Museu Marítim i Drassanes Reials de Barcelona
- Consell Consultiu i Assessor de BTV

Local councils

- Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona
- Consell de la Formació Professional de Barcelona
- Consell Econòmic i Social de Barcelona
- Institut Municipal de Mercats de Barcelona
- Fòrum Ciutat-Comerç de l’Ajuntament de Barcelona
- Consell de Ciutat de l’Ajuntament de Barcelona
- Consell de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (Departament de Governació)
- Pacte per la Mobilitat de Barcelona
- PortIC Barcelona SA
- Programa d’Orientació d’Equipaments Comercials (Ajuntament Prat del Llobregat)
- Associació d’Empreses i Institucions 22@ Barcelona
- Associació Pla Estratègic Metropolità de Barcelona
Other institutions

- Llotja de Cereals
- Consolat de Mar
- Llotja de Vic
- Ateneu Barcelonès
- Observatori Dona, Empresa, Economia

The Barcelona Chamber of Commerce is linked up through powerful databases which allow sharing knowledge and sourcing technologies, as well as business partners across the world. Moreover, the Chamber is also closely linked with the European Commission, which enables us to keep abreast of EU policies and to convey the views and opinions of small companies to the European bodies in Brussels.
## WHAT IS OUR EXPERTISE ON EU FUNDING PROGRAMMES?

### International projects portfolio

The Barcelona Chamber of Commerce has extensive experience participating in EU funded projects both as coordinator and as partner.

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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>EV ENERGY (Electric Vehicles for City Renewable Energy Supply)</td>
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<td>RCIA (Regional Creative Industries Alliance – From European recommendations to better regional CCI policies for a more competitive economy)</td>
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<td>INNOCRAFTS (Innovating Entrepreneurship policies in the Crafts sector)</td>
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<td>4HELI+X (Empowering the quadruple helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favour of MED blue growth)</td>
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<td>SMART-FINANCE (Smart financing for SMEs and Entrepreneurs in the SUDOE region)</td>
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<td>SMeTOOLS (Tools and support towards the adoption of the future EN on electronic invoicing in SMEs)</td>
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<td>EUEninvoicing.cat (European standards adoption for elinvoicing in Catalonia)</td>
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<td>ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS</td>
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<td>KEYMOB (Key Competences for Mobility)</td>
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<td>RAISE (Support for small and medium sized enterprises engaging in apprenticeships: Regional Apprenticeship Alliances for SMEs)</td>
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<td>EM 2.0 (Advanced Export Manager)</td>
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<td>ENT TEACH (Entrepreneurship Teaching)</td>
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<td>PROMES (Promoting Multilingualism in Exporting SMEs by Communication Auditing)</td>
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<td>PRE-SOLVE (PReventing business failure and inSOLVEncy)</td>
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<td>GO TO MEDIATION</td>
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<td>MEDIATION MEETS JUDGES</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>FAD-INS (Fashion Audiovisual Design Industries Innovation Schemes)</td>
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The Barcelona Chamber of Commerce is part of the Catalan node of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and provides SMEs with:

- Search for partners and business opportunities for international business projects [supply, demand and trade technology], innovation and R&D in all member countries of the network.
- Support for SME participation in EU programs.
- Opportunities for EU funding [private banking and non-banking].
- Organization and promotion of international events to do business and access new markets [trade missions and brokerage events]. Examples: Food, Medical.
- Advising on regulations, legislation and resolution of queries against a commercial action.
- The EEN spans over 50 countries and are part of it, nearly 600 organizations and more than 3,000 experts.

Specific objectives

- Promote the competitiveness of European SMEs through internationalization, technology transfer and access to finance. This service is free for businesses.

Key outcomes

In terms of service outcomes, the following achievements will be tracked: clients submitting proposals and receiving EU funding for R&D and Innovation; clients filing a patent for their technology/knowledge; clients awarded with a EU public procurement contract; clients receiving tax credit and/or patent box support; clients taking part of internationalization business groups; etc.

Moreover, Partnership agreements resulting from partnership profiles produced and disseminated through the Network; Partnership agreements resulting from brokerage events and Partnership agreements resulting from company missions are also expected to be reached.

Finally, EEN project will increase in the number of SMEs reached in Catalonia thanks to promotion of the Network services and communication activities.
In the light of the current challenges of urban tourism in European cities, Tourban project concentrates its efforts to tackle the adaptation of tourism companies towards more sustainable, low-carbon, circular and resource-efficient business models. It will provide them with the necessary skills, capacity and financial resources to become innovation and sustainability catalysts.

Tourban is funded by the European Commission under the programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) run by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME).

Specific objectives

- Share and exchange knowledge and best practices on tourism sustainability and circular economy models, especially in an urban context.
- Offer tourism SMEs the opportunity to participate in networking events and engage in cross-sectoral and transnational collaboration.
- Provide minimum 60 tourism SMEs with business and financial support in a 12-month acceleration programme.
- Support tourism SMEs in adopting best practices including obtaining internationally recognised certificates and labels.
- Leverage tourism SMEs’ capacities and skills to develop innovative solutions that make them both more sustainable and competitive.
- Spearhead a transnational and cross-sectoral movement towards tourism sustainability in urban areas across Europe.

Key outcomes for tourism SMEs

- Implementation of environmentally friendly, socially responsible and sustainable business models and generation of new and increased revenue streams, reduced costs and decreased resource consumption.
- Increased capacity to become effective engines of innovation for green practices and technologies.
- Adoption of internationally recognised certificates and labels increasing their visibility and positioning.
- Be part of a transnational and cross-sectoral community responsive and willing to transform their business models into more sustainable ones and adopt circular economy approaches.

Countries involved
Spain
Netherlands
Denmark
Estonia
Hungary
Croatia
Germany

Barcelona Chamber role
Leader

Duration
From September 16th 2020 to March 15th 2023

Budget
Global: € 1,327,777
For Barcelona Chamber: € 230,615

Programme contribution
75%

Tags
Sustainable urban tourism
SME support
Innovation
Circular economy
Capacity building
Acceleration

Funding Programme
Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union
Tourism in the Mediterranean is a key driver for socio-economic progress and a major income source for many of its countries. Some of the sectorial challenges lie within the predominance of mass seaside tourism and the seasonality of the industry.

MEDUSA project tackles these challenges via targeted cross-border interventions to develop and promote Adventure Tourism (AT) as a sustainable niche in the tourism market that provides the opportunity to reveal less known destinations and attract tourists throughout the whole year.

MEDUSA project is co-financed by the European Union under the European Neighbourhood Instrument cross-border cooperation programme "Mediterranean Sea Basin" 2014-2020 (ENI CBC MED).

**Specific objectives**

The overall objective of the project is to develop a competitive form of AT in the Mediterranean based on environmental, social and economic sustainability values.

Concretely, MEDUSA aims to:

- Identify and valorise territorial assets for developing AT products, especially off-season, based on a thorough understanding of market demand drivers, supply and competitiveness variables.
- Promote a multi-stakeholder engagement towards capacity building and exchange of experiences and adopt strategic alliances that will formalise roles and responsibilities for AT destination stewardships.
- Implement pilot actions rolling out improved and new AT products as well as develop and promote tourism packages through a cross-border marketing alliance to international source markets.

**Key outcomes**

The ambition of the project is to increase the visibility and attractiveness of less known destinations resulting in increased international tourist arrivals in the targeted regions.

Furthermore, an equalisation of tourist streams in terms of seasonality and geographical areas results in a more balanced distribution of income and strain on the territory and population. A sustainability-oriented approach to tourism management safeguards biodiversity, wildlife, natural and cultural resources as well as rural communities.
SHAAMS Project aims to raise public awareness on energy efficiency through the transferability and implementation of good practices in legal, regulatory, economic and organizational issues including the promotion of new financing mechanisms to facilitate the take up of solar technologies.

Specific objectives

- Establish efficiency–proven governance solutions aimed at identifying innovative, transferable and sustainable solar energy strategies and support strategies.
- Pave the way for a shared and unified approach on solar energy for the ENPI CBC MED region and the development of an integrative long term–policy perspective.
- Promote a cultural, behavioral and, most of all, operational change towards the success of solar energy driven solutions in a multi-level / multi-regional scenario.
- Facilitate the transfer of solar technologies by establishing shared mechanisms and procedures (based on common indicators) for the development of the sector.
- Set up the necessary foundations for the effective deployment of the Mediterranean Solar Plan.

Key outcomes

- Regional studies on the development and needs of the solar energy sector.
- Implementation Plans for the development of the solar energy sector.
- Legal revisions and recommendations
- Policy Briefs
- Set of common standards and indicators for the solar energy sector.
- Large scale awareness raising actions
- Participative actions and workshops
- Large-scale technology transfer initiatives
- Brokerage events
- Creation of communities of knowledge on the field of solar energy
- Creation of a Pool of Research for the solar energy sector.
- Collaborative project website
The Green MED Initiative project is part of the ENPI instrument funding Neighborhood Policy of the European Union. The first major objective of this project is to increase environmental awareness in the participating regions and develop a recycling program through the integrated operation of innovative technologies. Green Med initiative is aimed especially at young people, whether in universities or schools, to involve them actively in the world of recycling and sustainability. In parallel, start an awareness campaign on this subject in communication media.

**Specific objectives**

- Educate young people about the culture of recycling environment.
- Involving young people in community recycling activities locally.
- Promote cross-border collaboration around a common cause: recycling.
- Point and promote legislative action to strengthen the recycling, especially in regions that have no experience in this field.

**Key outcomes**

- Collecting recyclable material, assessing direct and indirect benefits of the process, with the aim of reaching percentages between 40 and 60% of the total.
- Point and promote legislative action to strengthen the recycling, especially in regions that do not have experience in this field.
- Direct involvement of schools and 200 schools with a total of 10,000 people linked directly to the initiatives of the project, 40,000 indirectly. The initiative Green Initiative Med proposes bringing the campaign raising a total of 50,000 people.
- Communication and joint action with 10 companies in each of the regions involved in the project.
- Collection of recyclable material, assessing the direct and indirect benefits process with the aim of reaching percentages between 40 and 60% of the total.
- 199 experts and professionals involved in the project.
- 12 conferences and seminars to improve management capacity waste material.
EUROMED INVEST

Specific objectives

EUROMED Invest, with a budget of €5 million, is one of the main European programs aiming at developing private investments and economic relations in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Its objective is to renew the interest of SMEs in the Euro-Mediterranean market, increase investment and business projects flow, and ensure that the EU regains its leading position as source of foreign direct investment in these countries. EUROMED Invest is funded by the European Commission, the MedAlliance consortium, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region and the City of Marseilles.

Key outcomes

MEDA-LOGISTICS & TRANSPORT ROADSHOW will promote the South ENPI countries together at SIL on the 9th -10th of June from 16:30 to 19:30, organizing a Mediterranean Pavilion with different business activities in parallel. The Med Pavilion will be held in the framework of the EUROMED Invest project co-financed by the European Union and the OPTIMED project co-financed by the European Union through the ENPI CBC MED programme which includes: B2B meetings & B2Governments; Workshops & Presentations, about investment opportunities in Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco; Networking space and Helpdesks of Investment Promotion Actors.

BARCELONA EUROMED INVEST ACADEMY “Barcelona Declaration+20”: Trade and Investment for a Mediterranean of shared prosperity” is a large capacity building and networking event which will be held over 2 days during the IX Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders, whereby 2 seminars will be organized in parallel on FDI promotion/investors servicing and business support services for existing SMEs and new entrepreneurs. The event, co-organised by the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce (ASCAME) and AFAEMME, is coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Process and will also involve the Union for the Mediterranean.

Countries involved
Med Alliance Countries

Barcelona Chamber role
Affiliated Partner

Duration
Meda-Logistics & Transport Roadshow
9th-10th of June 2015

Barcelona Euromed Invest Academy
24th-25th of November 2015

Budget
Meda-Logistics & Transport Roadshow
Global: € 36,884
For Barcelona Chamber: € 3,500

Barcelona Euromed Invest Academy
Global: € 30,752
For Barcelona Chamber: € 15,140

Programme contribution
80%

Tags
Business promotion organizations
Internationalization
Workshops
B2B meetings

www.euromedinvest.eu
The project EV Energy aims to act as a catalyst for the transition from internal combustion engines to renewable energy fuelled electric vehicles and thereby pave the way towards fair priced, decarbonised future energy and mobility systems in urban areas. To this end, the project collaborates with experienced cities and analyses and transfers policy measures in order to implement best solutions favouring sustainable mobility. By the interconnection of fragmented policies and an intelligent integration of electric mobility and renewable energy into smart grids, obstructions to a clean urban development are significantly reduced. EV Energy is funded by the European Commission under the European Regional Development Fund’s (ERDF) Programme for Interregional Cooperation in Europe (Interreg EUROPE).

**Specific objectives**

- Establish a network of cooperation among stakeholders and connect them to existing networks creating a Policy Learning Platform (PLP).
- Identify, assess and exchange best practices and policies related to electric mobility and renewable energy systems based on the experience and activities of partners.
- Share experiences and develop a database of measured actions in a systematic framework of topics and conditions for implementation.
- Create a shortlist of policy options and select relevant policies for achieving regional and national objectives (based on a mapping and assessment of regional stakeholders, values and impacts in support of locally desired solutions).
- Improve regional policy instruments and monitor results of updated measures.

**Key outcomes**

- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) including a mapping of application areas.
- Value and network analysis through the Sustainability Impact Assessment Methodology (SIAM).
- Regional stakeholder groups (70 people involved) across Europe.
- A Framework for effective policies related to electric mobility and renewable energy systems, including an assessment strategy.
- Analysis and transfer of best practices.
- 5 Action plans with policy instruments to improve e-mobility and renewable energy systems.
The project RCIA (Regional Creative Industries Alliance) is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Commission under the large-scale Programme Interreg EUROPE. Drawing on the policy recommendations of the European Creative Industries Alliance (ECIA), RCIA aims to improve policy instruments related to SME competitiveness through interregional policy learning. To this end, it focuses on supporting Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) in nine European countries and thereby sets impulses for growth, increases the attractiveness and innovative image of the city/region/country and eventually helps to position CCIs as drivers of innovation and pillars of the competitiveness policy throughout sectors.

### Specific objectives

- Strengthen the competitiveness of creative SMEs by investing in their capacity building (development/execution of business plans, contact to investors, mentoring programmes) and thereby supporting their growth on global markets.
- Adapt various funding mechanisms to the particularities of CCIs (including the possibility of capacity building measures for banks).
- Increase the awareness about creative SMEs and their transformative power (added value) for the competitiveness of companies from the wider economy.
- Develop/adapt/improve the ecosystem from classic spatial cross-collaboration towards a holistic approach.

### Key outcomes

- Synergetic exchange between peers and identification and dissemination of good practices (based on staff exchanges, study visits, etc.).
- Strategic intensive policy reviews and development of policy recommendations and instruments through interregional learning processes.
- Development of regional action plans.
- Cross-sectorial collaborations between creative SMEs and companies from the wider economy.
- Increase competitiveness and originate new products and solutions in the CCI and eventually spill-overs into other fields and sectors.

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**Countries involved**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Romania
- Greece
- Latvia
- Italy
- Poland
- Spain

**Barcelona Chamber role**

Partner

**Duration**

**Phase 1**

From January 1st 2017 to December 31st 2019

**Phase 2**

From July 1st 2020 to December 31st 2021

**Budget**

- Global: € 1,877,340
- For Barcelona Chamber: € 233,871

**Programme contribution**

85%

**Tags**

Creative Industries
Exchange of Good Practices
Growth
Innovation

[www.interregeurope.eu/rcia](http://www.interregeurope.eu/rcia)
The INNOCRAFTS Project has been approved and co-financed in the framework of the Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the European Union’s Regional Development Fund. The Programme helps European Regions to work together in order to share experiences and good practices in the fields of innovation, knowledge economy, environment and risk prevention.

**Specific objectives**

- The overall objective of the INNOCRAFTS project is to **promote entrepreneurship and business creation in the artistic and contemporary crafts sector** by improving the effectiveness of regional and local development policies through sharing and exchanging good practices and experiences.

**Key outcomes**

The project will implement an intensive exchange of experiences and knowledge between partners on best practices and approaches selected together with related sub-objectives of the project, the areas of action:

- Business models and business support services, including business incubators and business parks as well as other Installations;
- Access to design innovation and financial assistance for SMEs;
- Internationalization of SMEs, professional networking and information exchange;
- Fostering entrepreneurship among specific groups such as young entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs.
The Interreg IVC project GreenITNet offers the opportunity to assess a wide range of actions and to analyze policies and tools to explore, develop and implement Green IT in Europe. Worldwide Green IT also has been recognized as a major condition to achieve CO2 emission reduction targets. This concerns both the energy efficiency of ICT and ICT infrastructure (Greening OF IT) and the opportunities to deploy ICT as an enabler to develop new, smart solutions for a more energy efficient society (Greening BY IT).

**Specific objectives**

- The main objective of GreenITNet is to develop a systematic Green IT policy framework and select a number of good practices and effective policies in areas such as: Geo-information systems, open data, city planning, energy efficient buildings, transport and mobility etc.

- The project focuses on the activation of European cities with a high sustainable energy ambition, a strong ICT technology potential and previous experience in Green IT.

**Key outcomes**

The actual results of the project are expected to revolve around:

- Training locally by implementing effective policies related to ICT.
- Developing a comprehensive database of best practices in Europe.
- The dissemination and adoption of 25 of these practices.
The INTERREG IVC funded TOK-TOC project, aims to map the SME transfer process into a model encompassing the key processes and procedures underlying the transfer process, with particular attention given to the use of knowledge transfer strategies and methodologies.

**Specific objectives**

- The overall aim of the project TOK-TOC is to **empower the ageing workforce and its successors with the skills and capacity needed in accomplishing business transfer sustainability**. TOK-TOC will highlight the policies supporting life-long learning and human capital mobility across partner regions and will reinforce the involvement of local authorities in the business transfer process.

**Key outcomes**

- Increase of information, knowledge and skills regarding the promotion and support for business transfers and the importance of adapting human capital management of these processes locally.
- Identification and definition of good practices: factors that favor transmission companies and risk assessment when undertaking succession.
- Improved communication of best practices between regions.
- Establishment of platforms for the exchange of experiences among participating partners.
- Compilation of transfer business models that can serve as an example.
- Creation of a scheme operating model and management of these processes that can export the whole European Union.

**Countries involved**

- Germany
- Greece
- Romania
- Spain
- The Netherlands
- United Kingdom

**Barcelona Chamber role**

Partner

**Duration**

From 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014

**Budget**

Global: € 1,722,660
For Barcelona Chamber: € 230,635

**Programme contribution**

75%

**Tags**

- Business transfer
- Knowledge transfer
- SME
- Entrepreneurship

www.tok-toc.eu
CreaInnovation is a project financed by Interreg MED, a transnational cooperation programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Interreg MED supports the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and the improvement of public policies between national, regional and local authorities and other territorial actors of eligible regions of the MED area.

The project’s aim is to overcome growth impediments in Mediterranean Green SMEs by offering them a methodology and structured approach to innovation. It draws on young peoples’ fresh minds combined with managerial expertise and technical knowledge of experts and academics brought together in workshops to exhaust their full creativity potential and convert it into innovation and tangible business ideas and models.

Specific objectives

- Strengthen the competitiveness of Mediterranean Green SMEs by enhancing their innovation potential and turn their innovative business ideas into sustainable products and services.
- Establish Creativity Laboratories in the partner regions where SMEs can generate new business ideas working with creativity experts, managers and students, both at local and international level.
- Develop and test innovative methodologies applied during Creativity workshops, where real business problems are tackled.
- Facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market by enhancing their creative thinking and problem solving capacities as well as establishing contact to local and international SMEs.
- Create an innovation fertile ground inside SMEs to enable innovation processes that can result in new products and new jobs.

Key outcomes

- Creativity innovation working model design to support SMEs sustainable innovation.
- CreaInnovation methodology transferred to Green SMEs to develop new business sustainable ideas.
- Methodology to participatory design, management and implementation of CreaInnovation Labs.

Countries involved
- Italy
- Portugal
- Greece
- Spain
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- France
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Montenegro

Barcelona Chamber role
Partner

Duration
From February 1st 2018 to January 31st 2021

Budget
Global: € 1,627,450
For Barcelona Chamber: € 240,950

Programme contribution
85%

Tags
Innovation
Competitiveness
SMEs
Green Growth
Creativity

https://interreg-med.eu/
Empowering the quadruple helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favour of MED blue growth

4helix+ is a project financed by Interreg MED, a transnational cooperation programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Interreg MED supports the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and the improvement of public policies between national, regional and local authorities and other territorial actors of eligible regions of the MED area.

The project aims to stimulate, coach and fund cross-sectoral and trans-boundary innovation within the Mediterranean maritime sector. It seeks to improve the collaboration of Mediterranean maritime clusters and their quadruple helix actors (research institutions, industry, government and civil society) and non-institutional new innovation agents such as fab labs, co-working spaces, creative hubs, makerspaces, etc.

Specific objectives

- Design, test, evaluate and transfer new innovation processes (blue bootcamps, voucher schemes) aimed to stimulate, coach and fund cross-sectoral and trans-boundary innovation of blue traditional (fisheries and shipbuilding) and blue emerging sectors (aquaculture, blue biotechnology and green shipbuilding) SMEs/start-ups.
- Foster collaborations between MED maritime innovative clusters and new innovation agents such as fablabs, co-working spaces, makerspaces, creative hubs, living labs, techshops, incubators, etc.
- Boost partnerships with cultural and creative industries knowledge and expertise.

Key outcomes

- The maritime cluster key actors (blue SMEs and startups) upgrade their transnational and cross-innovation cooperation capacities to test new products, processes, services, business models and marketing strategies.
- Increased awareness and understanding about the competitive advantage of Blue Growth through 4helix+ model, particularly among local/regional/national policy makers.
- Improved skills of designing and implementing an upgraded innovation process to stimulate new trans-boundary and cross-sectoral knowledge transfer in favor of the innovative maritime clusters participating in the project.

Countries involved
- Italy
- Portugal
- Greece
- Spain
- Croatia
- Albania
- France

Barcelona Chamber role
Partner

Duration
From February 1st 2018 to October 31st 2020

Budget
Global: € 2,193,984
For Barcelona Chamber: € 270,256

Programme contribution
85%

Tags
Innovation
Blue Growth
Maritime Clusters
Quadruple helix

https://interreg-med.eu/
SMART FINANCE
Smart financing for SMEs and Entrepreneurs in the SUDOE region

The SMART FINANCE project aims to enable entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs to access financing through the use of an innovative ICT-based system, which simplifies the processes to access credit and improves efficiency in the day-to-day management of businesses. This project is implemented by Business Associations, Chambers of Commerce and universities in Spain, France and Portugal. The project will create an online platform that includes more than 400 financing options; provides customised support and orientation; as well as, aiding companies in each step of the process. SMART FINANCE is funded under the Programme for Territorial Cooperation in the European Southeast (SUDOE) though the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Specific objectives

- Offer current and clear information about all financial options in a sole platform, simplifying access to financing for SMEs. The platform will also provide financial tools, support services, manuals, equity rounds, etc.
- Improve the financial culture in business networks through the use of tools, diagnostics, manuals and simulators that improve financial management behaviours. Through the project, SMEs will be able to assess the real situation of their companies and the weaknesses that they need to work on in order to access financing.
- And, last but not least, the project aspires to provide support and orientation to companies in the processes required to apply for funding.

Key outcomes

- 1 Smart Finance online Platform.
- 1,400 companies receiving advice on access to finance through webinars, local seminars, workshops, etc.
- 7 Local studies with regards to public and private financing sources in the SUDOE region, which share a common methodology.
- Analyse, assess and upload 700 financing sources on the platform.
- 7 FINLAB pilots including information corners to assess and counsel companies.
- A critical analysis on the levels and quality of the financial institutions for SMEs and entrepreneurs in the SUDOE region.
- A round table discussing the capacity of the financial institutions to generate growth amongst SMEs and entrepreneurs in the region.
- 900 Companies receiving trainings.
The main objective of this project is to **stimulate SME innovation through the use of ICT solutions**. From an operative point of view, the project started with meetings between experts of different activity sectors, hundreds of SMEs and micro-SMEs which aimed to innovate. Afterwards, the innovative ideas identified during the meetings have been implemented.

### Specific objectives

- Capitalization of strengths of several transnational cooperation projects.
- To implement security tools on the Internet that will foster technology innovation for SUDOE companies.
- To foster good practices in order to develop specific projects.
- To build a database of experts in innovation and ICT.
- To define a common methodology between every partner to ensure the effectiveness of an innovation project in a company and to develop common tools to foster these innovations.

### Key outcomes

- A database of 720 ICT and innovation experts who are located in the SUDOE territory.
- To create an interactive manual about good practices on innovation, an awareness raising video and a diagnosis tool of innovation and new technologies for companies which main objective would be that coherence exists with the Cybersudoe tools that are available on the platform.
- To send 15 newsletters to 10,000 companies in each partner territory.
- To organise 45 Innovation events.
- To organise 1,350 “One to one” meetings between companies and experts.
- To develop 370 diagnosis about innovation and new technologies.
- To accompany 104 new innovation projects.
- To make available all tools on the web site cybersudoe.eu in order to have a wider impact.
The main objective of the project is to accompany companies in defining innovation promotion projects in order to measure obtained outcomes, provide personnel with a specific training in innovation (supervised by experts) and enhance their relationship with the university in order to achieve particular objectives and collaborations.

Specific objectives

• The DINAMIC project focuses on stimulating innovation management in SMEs. On a first stage, university students take a professional training course on innovation strategy and management, and on a second stage, they will be doing an internship at a SME implementing a specific innovation project during 6 months.

Key outcomes

• Design and kick off of a training course about innovation promotion and management in companies.
• Design of a methodology to analyze the dynamizers profile and evaluate their motivation to work in the innovation management sector.
• Performance of a diagnosis model to identify motivated companies to improve the management of their innovation processes.
• Design of an innovation management methodology according to companies characteristics (size and sector) and a follow-up plan of the company and the dynamizer to apply that methodology.
• Elaboration of business innovation plans and a follow-up and reporting plan about the outcomes of the implementation.
• Kick-off of pilot projects with dynamizers groups, companies and universities.
Interoperability of IT infrastructure in the electronic procurement process across Europe constitutes a major goal to facilitate cross-border communication among businesses and in between businesses and governmental institutions and thereby enhances the process efficiency and strengthens competitiveness. One central component in the electronic procurement process is electronic invoicing.

The project SMeTOOLS aims to provide solutions to eInvoicing interoperability among the participant countries (Belgium, Spain and Italy) in accordance with the forthcoming European Norm.

SMeTOOLS is funded by the European Commission under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Programme run by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).

Specific objectives
• Implement the new European electronic invoice standard (EN 16931) in the B2BRouter web portal with the necessary adaptations for the consortium countries.
• Provide training and technical workshops to promote the new standard and related infrastructure.
• Provide an open source library to help companies integrate with the eInvoicing Digital Service Infrastructure (DSI) through service providers.
• Promote the use of the new standard and related infrastructure (eInvoicing DSI) in B2B scenarios.
• Promote cross-border electronic invoicing through events, workshops and seminars.
• Provide a support service for SMEs in the use of the new electronic invoice standard.

Key outcomes
• Provide support to SMEs in Europe for the adoption of the EN, with services, tools and training.
• Connect to existing eDelivery services, taking on board a large community of existing eInvoicing users.
• Facilitate and enhance the cross-border exchange of electronic invoices at EU level.
EUeInvoicing.cat is aiming at the adaption of the eInvoicing ecosystem in Catalonia according to the new European eInvoicing standard EN 16931.

The existing solutions already allow companies and public administrations in Catalonia to exchange eInvoices and receive updates on their status. But an upgrade is needed to adopt and use the new EN standard to fully support cross-border scenarios.

The EUeInvoicing.cat project will support the upgrade of all the systems participating in the Catalan eInvoicing ecosystem, and will further support open source tools to manage eDelivery of eInvoices.

EUeInvoicing.cat is funded by the European Commission under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Programme run by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).

**Specific objectives**

The partners of the project are managing millions of eInvoices between thousands of entities. The challenge is to upgrade the services and:

- Update the existing electronic invoice generation system and e.FACT platform and comply with the Directive on electronic invoicing within the given deadline.
- Implement an invoice reception point following the new standard (PEPPOL eDelivery Access Point).
- Update the notification system of the platforms involved to comply with the new standard (”Message Level Response” and “Invoice Message Response” defined in PEPPOL).
- Develop a sustainability strategy for both the private sector and the public sector.

**Key outcomes**

The ambition of the project is to implement the most important upgrades to fully adopt the EN eInvoicing standard within the whole eInvoicing ecosystem in Catalonia. The results of the project have a direct impact on more than 25,000 providers that submit around 200,000 eInvoices per month to 1,517 public authorities in Catalonia. They moreover allow Catalan entities (public and private) to use eInvoicing in cross-border scenarios.
The main objective of the LIFE CLINOMICS project is to build resilience of the Mediterranean Local Authorities through the intervention in three different types of territories in Catalonia: Alt Penedès, Montseny and Terres de l’Ebre and in three significant economic activities: tourism, agriculture and forestry. LIFE CLINOMICS is funded under the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission through the LIFE Programme.

**Specific objectives**

- To draft climate change adaptation action plans and strategies and to create the appropriate conditions so its material and financial implementation is real in a short term, with the added strength of social participation.
- To provide Local Authorities with tools which allow them to launch and mainstream climate change adaptation policies.
- To develop a climate change adaptation planning model that can be replicated and useful to the countries in the Mediterranean area and in South Europe and that can be useful to other European countries.
- To attract private investment and launch local investment processes with private-public partnerships to implement climate change adaptation measures.
- To create knowledge, capacity and information on the impacts of climate change in the territories and the economic sectors involved in the project as well as on the actions that reduce or eliminate those impacts.

**Key outcomes**

- 3 detailed studies on the impact of climate change, one in each of the territories involved.
- 3 detailed diagnosis on the social organization, one for each territory, of each of the socioeconomic sectors: business, workers and farmers (includes forestry sector). There will be a specific minor chapter on fisheries.
- 3 territorial platforms and 3 sector platforms to organize the social response to face climate change impacts in a participative way.
- 3 intervention strategies and 3 action plans to adapt to climate change that will integrate the territorial and economic approaches.
- 6 measures that adapt existing infrastructures or create new ones, 2 in each territory.
- 10 training courses for the economic sectors (public workers, farmers, private sector workers and entrepreneurs) and several sectorial workshops (tourism, agriculture and forests) with 900 participants expected.
- To develop capacity building of 75 European stakeholders from the Mediterranean Area, 25 per each social sector.
- To create and feed an indicator system on climate change adaptation in each territory.
The StartUp project is financed by the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme, with the aim to help provide aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a small business in Europe. New entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur, with whom they stay and collaborate for a period of 1 to 6 months. The stay is partly financed by the European Commission.

**Specific objectives**
- The acquisition of new competences (linguistic, intercultural, technical, management and financial ones);
- Direct knowledge of another country’s working methods and of the transnational dimension of the SMEs;
- Improvement of the performance of the SMEs both in terms of effectiveness and efficiency;
- Investment in ideas sharing, generation and development, stimulating social innovation;
- Capacity to maintain the natural links with the local territory, having at the same time an European level overview of SMEs’ situation.
- To create new partnerships and developing new networks between entrepreneurs of the different European countries.
- To encourage active and engaging networking among enterprises from all business sectors.

**Key outcomes**
- To provide on-the-job-training for 70 NEs with the firm intention to set up a business.
- To facilitate successful new start-ups and the consolidation of recent ones.
- To support 62 HEs who want to expand their business or enter other European markets.
- To build and support business relationships involving 132 entrepreneurs from different EU countries and from several business sectors.
- To promote the EYE Programme around Europe and in all partners’ countries.
- To enrol, at least, 240 NEs and HEs as potential participants to be involved in the mobility exchanges.
- To create a network of IOs in the countries of the Consortium and beyond.
- The creation of Contact lists of potential NEs (New Entrepreneurs) and HEs (Host Entrepreneurs).
The Keymob project is financed by the Erasmus+ programme. The aim of the project is to develop cooperation between training centers, companies, regional and municipal governments to develop curricular tools and the necessary logistical and organizational agreements for the development of the transversal competences of the apprentices on a context of international mobility.

The project is focused primarily on the key players in the international mobility of the apprentices, and on the regional and municipal institutions and the intermediary bodies that necessarily collaborate in the success of such mobility. Secondly, it is directed at the apprentices, in order to improve the quality of their learning of transversal competences on an international context.

The main expected result of the project is a consensus between regional authorities, training centers and representatives of companies to develop transversal competencies of trainees in a context of transnational mobility in the 3 regions participating in the project: Catalonia, Occitanie, Baden-Württemberg and in the city of Chomutov. This consensus will consist of an agreement on the instruments needed to develop them.

Key outcomes

The expected outcomes are:

1. A curriculum for the development of transversal skills of apprentices in a productive context of transnational mobility.
3. A guide for teachers of training centers and for company tutors who welcome young people in training on how to develop transverse skills and apply the curriculum designed for it.

These three instruments will make possible to improve existing methods and mechanisms in the three regions and in the city of Chomutov for the promotion of transnational mobility of apprentices.
RAISE
Support for small and medium sized enterprises engaging in apprenticeships: Regional Apprenticeship Alliances for SMEs

Today when SMEs face problems related to start up, innovation and growth, they find help in a proactive ecosystem of intermediary organizations: yet the vast majority of these organizations do not currently provide guidance to SMEs on the subject of apprenticeships. RAISE seeks to address this situation by building the capacity of intermediary bodies to develop and operate support structures which will facilitate SMEs to become apprentice employers. The structure of RAISE enables the partnership to leverage access to intermediary organizations and SMEs. RAISE is funded under the Erasmus+ Programme through the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Specific objectives

• Establish 6 Regional Apprenticeship Alliances involving 80+ intermediaries and wider stakeholders, including VET providers.

• Produce and disseminate information resources, a teaching course, and practical tools which make the “business case” for SMEs to become involved in apprenticeships and provide step by step guides.

Key outcomes

• To improve knowledge relating to the “business case” for SME involvement.

• To gain information on potential sectors where apprenticeships can be developed in particular regions.

• To be able to quickly incorporate this new knowledge and skills to convey it to those who embark on apprenticeships for SME constituents and clients.

• To improve the expertise of their staff and overall organizational performance in this increasingly important area of public policy.

• To build new personal contacts with VET providers and other stakeholders required to develop new apprenticeship opportunities for SMEs.

• To have a larger voice in helping shape apprenticeship policy.

In addition, more than 10,000 SMEs will be encouraged to take steps towards employing apprentices. They can be expected to:

• Complete an assessment/self-evaluation to understand the benefits for their organizations.

• Understand the concrete steps required to become an apprentice employer.

• Gain the skills required to manage the apprentice process.
EM 2.0 project is included in the Leonardo da Vinci programme funded by the EU with the aim of training students in skills as Export Managers. The project partners note the need to promote the internationalization of SMEs closely with the training systems in order to create optimal conditions for international trade and simultaneously improve vocational training locally. The figure of the Export Manager is a key to the growth of SMEs and training is recognized as a central element for enabling the output to foreign companies.

**Specific objectives**

- The objective of the EM2.0 project is to create a **training course devoted to a new generation of Export Manager**. The Export Manager 2.0 represents the evolution of the traditional Export Manager, **empowered by updated knowledge of new and innovative WEB/ICT tools for export**.

**Key outcomes**

- Improving the export capacity of SMEs based on the definition of better training and professional profiles in Export Management.
- Improved training quality of this professional sector in the European Union.

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**Countries involved**
- Bulgaria
- Italy
- Slovenia
- Spain
- United Kingdom

**Barcelona Chamber role**
- Partner

**Duration**
- From 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2014

**Budget**
- Global: € 514,400
- For Barcelona Chamber: € 100,573

**Programme contribution**
- 75%

**Tags**
- Export Manager
- Internationalization
- SME
- Training materials

www.exportmanager20.eu
ENT-TEACH project is included within the Leonardo da Vinci programme funded by the EU and aims to provide vocational training teachers the tools and materials to educate, inspire and motivate students through a practical and innovative approach to encourage entrepreneurial spirit. Experts in the field of entrepreneurship, end users and entrepreneurs from seven countries associated with the project will develop tools to achieve the aim of training professionals in education with emphasis on the creation of micro-enterprises (start-ups).

Specific objectives

- ENT-TEACH stimulates entrepreneurship teaching at vocational colleges and incubators by providing teachers/trainers with practical materials and tools to educate, inspire and motivate students for entrepreneurship. Students will be made aware of the possibilities to actually pursue a career as an entrepreneur and learn along the way.

Key outcomes

Through the participation and experience of training experts, end users and entrepreneurs of the seven countries participating in the project will develop a set of tools and training materials for teachers of entrepreneurship Training.

- Stimulate entrepreneurship in vocational training institutes
- Provide tools and materials to educate teachers
- Motivate and inspire students towards entrepreneurship
- Students are posed as a real possibility to be entrepreneurs
The project aims to improve identification of skills and competences needed in SMEs by applying VET based skills through an auditing process. ProMES focuses on training auditors with the skills to enhance individual companies’ trade performance in identifying linguistic and intercultural barriers and finding solutions to overcome these. The project reviews the feasibility of audit schemes in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Spain, to adapt, produce and enhance the training materials in four partner languages (SK, CZ, Catalan, ES), and to implement and trial these materials by training auditors and carrying out pilot communication reviews of SMEs in the target countries (so encourage the business services support system to adapt accordingly).

**Specific objectives**

- To import and adapt curricula, auditors’ and scheme managers’ training manuals.
- To pilot language and communication audit schemes for SMEs in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Spain with the aim of identifying communication barriers facing SMEs and finding solutions on how to overcome them.
- To disseminate good practices from Hungarian and UK experiences.
- To develop downloadable multilingual e-materials for training auditors in four languages (SK, CZ, Cat, ES).
- To select and train 30 language auditors in three countries (SK, CZ, ES).
- To pilot European language audits in 60 SMEs across Slovakia, Czech Republic, Catalonia and report on impact.
- To provide on-line access for trained consultants to access necessary tools and resources so as to complete LCAs (Language Communication Audits).

**Key outcomes**

- Company Audit Reports.
- Trained Auditors.

**Countries involved**

- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Spain
- United Kingdom

**Barcelona Chamber role**

Partner

**Duration**

From November 2012 to September 2014

**Budget**

Global: € 260,142
For Barcelona Chamber: € 70,070

**Programme contribution**

75%

**Tags**

Language Communication Audits
Exporting SMEs
Cross-border trading

**www.promes-project.eu**
PRE-SOLVE: Preventing business failure and insolvency

PRE-SOLVE (PREventing business failure and insolvency) is a large scale project implemented by Chambers of Commerce in 8 European countries and under the coordination of their European association (EUROCHAM-BRES). Its objective is to provide business intermediaries with tools to support natural or legal persons in difficulties with their business activities where there is likelihood of insolvency; where insolvency proceedings are pending; or after insolvency proceedings (‘Second Chance’). The PRE-SOLVE project is funded under the European Commission, through the Directorate-General (DG) of Justice.

Specific objectives

PRE-SOLVE aims, through business intermediaries, to give entrepreneurs in difficulties access to a diagnosis about their business situation; tailored support on different levels (financial, legal, strategic, marketing, psychological and dispute resolution management) if appropriate; where the situation is taken too late and there is no viability of the enterprise possible, support on the exit strategy whether it has to go through a declaration of bankruptcy or not; give assistance to plan the ‘Second Chance’ business.

On the other hand, PRE-SOLVE also aspires to provide data and policy recommendations from experiences obtained in the implementing stages, to feed policy development at both national and European level.

Key outcomes

- Development of tools for business intermediaries both in paper and web based. The 6 tools to be developed within the framework of the project are: a diagnosis tool and a follow-up dashboard; a psychological mapping and assistance methodology; an administration monitoring platform; a cost analysis tool; a dispute resolution management tool and a second chance business plan model. The tools will be customised and translated in order to fit with regional requirements (language, legislation, logistic, etc.). Training business intermediaries on the tools developed. Training focused on the 6 tools above and on educating participants in the current EU insolvency regulation. The training is aimed to be interactive and thus facilitate the exchange of experiences.
- Provide support to companies (through thematic workshops and tailored guidance) on the basis of the developed tools.
- Deliver an evaluation of the support phase and the drafting of policy recommendations on the basis of the 2 years’ experience and organisation of a high level policy conference.
The growing need to improve and make more effective mechanisms for resolving conflicts between companies has led to the setting of this project, whose objective is the promotion of mediation as a tool to resolve civil and commercial disputes; facilitating access to alternative systems in the administration of justice and the improvement of contacts, communication and information sharing between agents and operators involved in the mediation process.

**Specific objectives**

- Promotion the development of a European mediation as part of the European framework of justice.
- The dissemination and promotion of mediation to companies, organizations and professionals.

**Key outcomes**

- The development and launch of a website to serve as a reference point for companies and professionals for resolving border disputes and allow easier access and management procedures within the EU.
- Fostering cohesion and good practices of mediation and mediators by setting high standards of quality in terms of training and development.
- Obtaining meaningful information to identify relevant data on developments, needs and challenges posed to carry out a joint strategic operators, institutions and AAPP.
The main obstacle to the use of mediation is not the lack of supply but lack of demand. Thousands of mediators have been trained in the last ten years in Europe, but demand for mediation by companies involved in a conflict remains very low. The judges are empowered in many countries to discuss / recommend or even force the parties to go to mediation, but this possibility is not used as much as it could be due to the lack of guarantees of knowledge, tools and quality.

**Specific objectives**

- Mediation meets Judges (MmJ) focuses on the promotion of mediation in civil and commercial disputes and the increase of judicial referral of disputes to mediation by providing judges with a “direct” knowledge about mediation and practical tools to be used when referring parties to mediation.

**Key outcomes**

- Organisation of 40 workshops where judges and mediation practitioners can meet to exchange best practises and further promote the use of mediation in courts. A set of tools is developed and discussed with judges of European civil and commercial courts.
- Generate court annexed mediation pilot schemes in (at minimum) 13 European regions.
- Build new opportunities for improving networking between judges and mediation practitioners in a long-lasting way and at creating a virtuous circle that, by means of exchange of information and experiences, will develop stable and sustainable results.

**Countries involved**

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- France
- Ireland
- Italy
- Spain

**Barcelona Chamber role**

Partner

**Duration**

From 2014 to 2015

**Budget**

Global: € 783,680
For Barcelona Chamber: € 57,089

**Programme contribution**

79.82%

**Tags**

Mediation
Promotion of judicial cooperation
Access to justice
Networks

www.mediationmeetsjudges.eu
FAD-INS project aims to facilitate the innovation process through "customized services" and the use of innovation vouchers. The selected companies may exchange these innovation vouchers for a set of services provided by approved suppliers and tailored to their particular needs in this area. The services offered are intended to define the needs of business, learn from past successful experiences, clarify the different steps of an innovative project and define the resources to do it.

Specific objectives

• To implement an innovation voucher scheme targeting the fashion, industrial design and audiovisual sectors.
• To enable networking and matchmaking.
• To reduce administrative requirements.
• To deliver “on demand” support for innovation.
• To deliver more and better innovation support activities.
• To ensure the long term sustainability of innovation vouchers.

Key outcomes

• Providing a clear demonstration at a regional level that voucher schemes can work efficiently and match the needs of smaller firms.
• Demonstrating to the relevant public authorities that vouchers are highly transferable to other sectors than the ones targeted in the project.
• Carrying out the necessary actions (inclusion of voucher scheme in the Regional Operational Plan) to secure long term financing of at least 120 enterprises per year via one or various voucher schemes.
‘doing business’ in the territory

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