

# 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) through 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.



### Countries involved

France  
Portugal  
Spain

### Barcelona Chamber role

Partner

### Duration

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016  
to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

### Budget

Global: € 1,400,000  
For Barcelona Chamber:  
€ 183,000

### Programme contribution

75%

### Tags

Access to finance  
Online platform  
Entrepreneurs  
Start-ups  
SMEs

Funding Programme

