

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



Enhancing the competitiveness and innovation capacities of net-zero industry SMEs

Welcome to the first edition of the Net Zero SMEs Newsletter!

Net Zero SMEs supports small and medium-sized enterprises at the forefront of Europe's green transition. As the EU moves toward climate neutrality by 2050, innovative SMEs in clean technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable manufacturing play a key role in driving competitiveness and resilience. Yet, many experience challenges in scaling their solutions and reaching international markets.

BUDGET
1.619.736 €

DURATION
05/01/2025 -
07/31/2029



SMART

DISCOVER THE PROJECT

Objectives:

Financial constraints, complex regulations, limited export ability, and low market visibility often prevent the innovating SMEs from reaching their full potential. The Net Zero SMEs project aims to change this by promoting better access to tailored financial instruments, simpler regulations, and stronger capacity-building initiatives. Equipping SMEs with the skills, tools, and networks they need helps them navigate foreign markets confidently and sustainably.

The value of collaboration:

Policymakers, financial institutions, and business-support organisations should join forces to create a truly enabling environment. By supporting international growth, Europe not only strengthens its green industrial base but also ensures that its most agile innovators can compete globally, and thus progress toward a resilient, climate-neutral future.

EU policies supporting net-zero SMEs:

EU initiatives provide net-zero SMEs with financial support, regulatory guidance, and skills development to thrive internationally. Tools like [InvestEU](#), [Horizon Europe](#), and [Access2Markets](#), alongside trade agreements and sustainability frameworks, help SMEs access global markets, innovate, and become a part of green value chains!



NEWS AND EVENTS

Net Zero SMEs project launches in Ioannina, Greece (17–18 June 2025):

The official Net Zero SMEs project kick off, was hosted by the [Region of Epirus](#) (REGEP) and brought together representatives from all partner organisations to discuss project objectives, planned activities, and the collaborative approach for the implementation phase.

The partners introduced their institutions, shared regional insights, and explored strategies for supporting SMEs in advancing their net-zero transition. Key topics included policy mapping and capacity-building initiatives designed to empower SMEs in adopting sustainable practices and fostering innovation.

The meeting strengthened partnerships, aligned shared goals, and laid the groundwork for impactful collaboration in the coming years.



NEXT STEPS

Mapping SME profiles and needs (late 2025-early 2026):

Led by the [Region of Epirus](#), the project partners will map the profiles, challenges, and support needs of net-zero SMEs across participating regions. Through data collection, stakeholder engagement, and joint analysis, the activity will identify barriers, limited skills, and planning gaps, thus, allowing for targeted improvements.

Workshop on boosting market access (early 2026):

The [province of Hainaut](#) will host a virtual workshop focused on how to grow trade and exports that help SMEs expand into EU and international markets. The partners and relevant stakeholder will exchange good practices on helping small businesses join green supply chains and overcome export challenges.

Regional stakeholder meetings:

Each region will hold a stakeholder meeting to validate findings and gather local insights on SME needs and trade strategies.

Workshop on digital transformation (early 2026):

The workshop will explore how digital tools can make public support more efficient. It will also focus on the ways to speed up response times, simplify reporting, improve data sharing, and strengthen coordination between public authorities, making it easier for SMEs to access and benefit from support.



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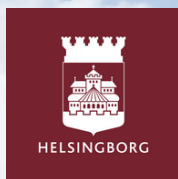
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