

NO. 1 06/2017

SMeART: Knowledge Alliance for Upskilling Europe's SMEs to meet the challenges of Smart Engineering



On January 1, 2017 the project Knowledge Alliance for Upskilling Europe's SMEs to meet the challenges of Smart Engineering began! This 3-year project within the European Erasmus+ funding programme Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Knowledge Alliances aims to build up sustainable cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs) and engineering Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the engineering sector to ensure a successful transition to smart industry.

WHY THIS PROJECT?

The greatest challenge facing Europe's engineering sector is the so-called smart industry, which is understood as being intelligent IT-based components and systems within all key areas of supply, production and distribution chains. The fact is that Europe's companies are poorly prepared for these developments and lag behind their competitors in the USA and Asia. In particular, SMEs, the backbone of Europe's industry and still global leaders in many areas of the market, are under enormous pressure in order to not completely lose their share of the market in the medium-term. Thus, SMeART tackles these challenges and seeks to support SMEs in becoming "smart".

WHAT ARE THE SMeART OBJECTIVES?

- To provide an overview of major smart industry initiatives in all 28 EU member states and to interlink them;
- To detect areas for the support and guidance of engineering SMEs by HEIs;
- To design, test and integrate a HEI-business cooperation model for upskilling SMEs to meet the challenges of smart engineering;
- To ensure further cooperation and exchange between HEIs, SMEs, and other key actors in the field of smart industry.

WHO ARE WE?

SMeART consortium consists of 14 well-chosen partners from 7 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain) representing HEI, research and enterprises sector and who:

- maintain an interface between science and the economy
- can evidence their competences in SME 4.0
- act in different countries
- have direct access to SMEs in their countries
- feel the pulse of both the market and the current times to recognise the demands of SME's
- are excellently interlinked



Learn more about SMeART and benefit from its outputs and outcomes by visiting our website: www.smart.eu



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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SMeART SNAPSHOT: WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

Two surveys with different focuses are being designed and will be implemented within the next project months in order to:

- investigate the most important ongoing and already implemented Smart Engineering initiatives and policies across all 28 EU member states.

Expected output: EU compass for Smart Engineering Initiatives and Policies.

- detect the real situation concerning engineering SMEs regarding their developments towards smart industry as well as their consultative and support needs, demands, and expectations within this field.

Expected output: Report on Business Consultant Needs of Europe's SMEs in Smart Engineering.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME!

Are you well informed about funding programmes concerning Smart Engineering in your country? Please share with us your knowledge by filling out the English online-questionnaire on Smart Engineering Policies and Initiatives! This survey can be accessed [HERE](#).

Or are you employed within a manufacturing SMEs and wish to share your needs and expectations in relation to Smart Engineering? We are very pleased to invite you to participate in our related survey produced in the following project languages:

Dutch

English

German

Italian

Slovenian

Spanish

Just select your preferred language version and complete the survey! Your expertise, opinions, and observations will help us greatly in designing tailor-made support instruments for companies to work towards becoming "smart".

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Based on the results of both surveys, we will develop, test and implement a number of tools for SMEs to support them in becoming smart companies, such as:

- SMeART HEI-Business Cooperation Model and Guidelines;
- Online-based SMeART Stress Tool for Engineering SMEs;
- SMeART Learning, Exchange and Networking Platform.

Information about upcoming SMeART developments, relevant events and achievements will be published in the 2nd newsletter, towards the end of 2017!

CONTACT US!



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