

gogreen europa



promoting sustainable business practice



Managed by:



What is Go Green Europe?

- **A collaboration between four partners: LB Wandsworth, C.E.S.S.I.E, AJE, and the South Denmark European Office**
- **Research in to supporting SMEs to identify and implement green business measures**
- **Findings were disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders at a local, regional, national and transnational level.**



How was the research carried out?

- **Focus on SMEs in specific regional locations from each country**
- **Survey of businesses to identify approaches to improving environmental performance**
- **Study visits to showcase examples of best practice in each country region**
- **4 country reports-focus on existing good practice and Overarching report**



Policy

- **Europe 2020 outlines integrated strategies to boost employment levels, economic growth and environmental sustainability**
- **EU policy addresses the environmental and economic performance of SMEs**
- **EU wide targets create obligations for Member States to set national targets**
- **Varying levels of environmental legislation across countries has led to the development of different support systems and incentives for businesses**



Environmental support to SMEs

- **Wide disparities exist in the levels of support between Member States**
- **Environmental factors are becoming integrated into traditional business support in all partner countries**
- **South Denmark- Green Networks**
- **South London- Go Green Plus**
- **Sicily- Grants to implement EMAS or ISO 14001**
- **Palermo- AJE develop guidelines and training**



UK

- **Ambitious national environmental targets have increased the need for low carbon business models**
- **Good practice sharing is vital for SMEs**
- **Access to finance is important but not vital**
- **Capital investments are not always necessary**



Denmark

- **SMEs can benefit from Denmark's tough environmental legislation and taxation**
- **Danish environmental policy and strategies are well coordinated, leading to effective actions by business**
- **Environmental networks and online portals are valuable ways to improve environmental performance**
- **Technological investments and systems have helped improve environmental performance**



Spain

- **Small improvements make a big difference**
- **SMEs need to be made aware of financial and technical support that exist at the national and regional levels**
- **Greater external intervention is required**
- **There is a need for greater engagement with environmental business networks**
- **National and regional level environmental accreditation schemes should be made more available**



Italy

- **Financial support is key for many businesses in order to enable environmental improvements**
- **Bottom up approaches to environment support are effective but need to be strengthened**
- **Policy actions and support must be tailored, flexible and dynamic**
- **The existence of SME clusters in Sicily provides a good opportunity to reach large numbers of businesses**



Overarching Conclusions

- **Member States with more advanced environmental legislation more successfully incentivise businesses to improve their environmental performance**
- **Many SMEs still have difficulties in complying with environmental legislation**
- **Environmental actions undertaken by SMEs are dependent on access to information and support**
- **Responses dependent on the size and nature of the organisation.**



Overarching Conclusions

- **Environmental support for SMEs needs to exist on a range of scales, to ensure that all businesses can access the help and guidance they need.**
- **Local outreach programmes are a valuable way to initiate environmental improvements in SMEs**
- **Business support should be flexible, tailored and respond to the varied nature of SMEs**
- **Support should include financial, technical and holistic measures**



Questions?

