

Local SME development in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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- Disparities among countries:
 - Innovation product – a mix of innovation leaders (Germany), innovation followers (Austria), moderate innovators (Central Europe) and modest innovators (Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia);
 - Technological readiness of SMEs;
 - Active enterprises;
 - Regional Competitiveness Index;
 - Investments in innovation;
 - Access to funding.

SMEs Support in the Danube Region

- Start of activities related to joint development of enabling infrastructure in less developed regions;
- Existing SME support networks – Enterprise Europe Network;
- Established Working Groups under the PAs;
- Funding;
- Active exchange of information, networking, knowledge, experience.

Danube Strategy Activities – what is available and ongoing

- Development of financial instruments to tackle the bottlenecks in funding for SMEs;
- Smart specialization;
- Unlocking the creative potential of the region;
- Fostering creative spirit and entrepreneurial learning in the education systems;
- Improved links between the SMEs and the educational systems;
- Developing of the Danube Region branding with unique products offer;
- Continued cooperation and improved involvement of the existing European Networks for SME support.

Common Opportunities