European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

ATM for SMEs
Interreg Europe

"ATM for SMEs"

Access to Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Project is aiming at improving the access to microfinance in the participating regions

The "ATM for SMEs" project is implemented within the framework of the INTERREG EUROPE programme. The aim of the project is to eliminate the lack of access to credit and financial exclusion.

The main strategy of the EU-financed project is to support social entrepreneurship by providing access to microfinance and contributing to the achievement of high-level and sustainable employment, reducing disparities and poverty and thus contributing to the realization of the "Inclusive Growth" priority of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The most important tool of interregional learning within the scope of the project is the study trips.

The sixth study trip of the project was held in Croatia in the premises of PORA Regional development agency of Koprivnica-Križevci County, and it was attended by the representatives of the project partners, local stakeholders of Koprivnica-Križevci County and the press.

Project information:

Number of partners: 10

Countries involved: Hungary, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Norway, Croatia, Belgium

Main outputs: 9 regional action plans, 6 study trips, 9 improved policies, 6 new projects generated

Project duration:4/2016 – 3/2021

ERDF funding:1,622,097 €

All the partners presented their policy exchanges and good practices, then the participants visited 2 entrepreneurs, who started their activities based on the support of the Measure for self-employment managed by the Croatian Employment Service.

The first business called **My moment** was a hair care studio opened by two owners who work together. They received a support of about 15 000 EUR from the Croatian Employment Service to help them start their business. From this amount they financed the rent of the premises where they work, pension insurance for 12 months and so on.

The second site visit was to a Creative studio called **IRMA**. This digital agency was also set up with the help of the Measure for self-employment provided by the Croatian Employment Service. The owner received an initial fund of 7 500 EUR, and used it to start-up a graphic and web design business.

The project is implemented through the Interreg Europe programme co-financed by ERDF.

The Croatian study trip was the last trip of the ATM project. The partners had the opportunity to identify good practices from several countries.

"Good practices identified highlighting the use of public/private funds to enhance the provision of microloans in Europe are a valuable source of inspiration to start shaping innovative partnership models in the microfinance sector." (EMN)