Supporting knowledge capacity in ICT among SME to engage in growth and innovation

SKILLS+ Interreg Europe

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND REGIONS

Ministry for Regional Development and Transport of SaxonyAnhalt, GERMANY Kainuun Etu Ltd., FINLAND

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of LATVIA

University of Western Macedonia, GREECE
Malopolska Regional Development Agency, POLAND

Trøndelag County Authority, NORWAY

Zadar County Rural Development Agency, CROATIA

Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, BULGARIA

Ministry for Culture and Tourism of Castilla y León Regional Government, SPAIN Pannon Novum WestTransdanubian Regional Innovation Nonprofit Ltd., HUNGARY

University of LATVIA

Technical University of Ostrava, CZECH REPUBLIC

"SKILLS+ aims at advancing public policies promoting information and

SKILLS+ aims at advancing public policies promoting information and communication technologies (ICT) skills among SMEs in rural areas helping them seize fully the opportunities offered by a digital single market and benefits of a digital economy.

The project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and Norwegian national funding through the INTERREG EUROPE programme. The project involves 12 partners from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Spain.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:



01/04/2016 - 31/03/2019



01/04/2019 - 31/03/2021

PROJECT TERRITORY:







Territory: ~317 m²

PROJECT TARGETS



More SMEs in rural areas using ICT tools in their daily activities.



More new products and services developed and introduced by SMEs in rural areas.



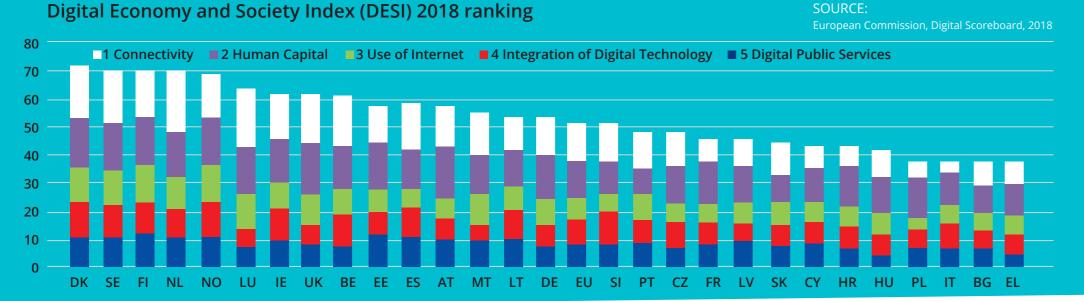
More SMEs digitalisation initiatives.



More funding absorbed by rural SMEs for introducing innovative ICT solutions.

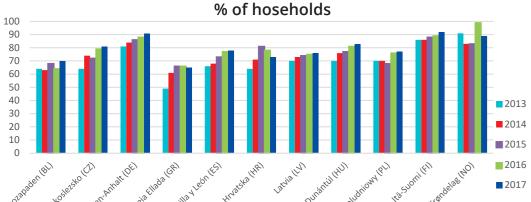
DIGITALISATION PROGRESS ACCORDING

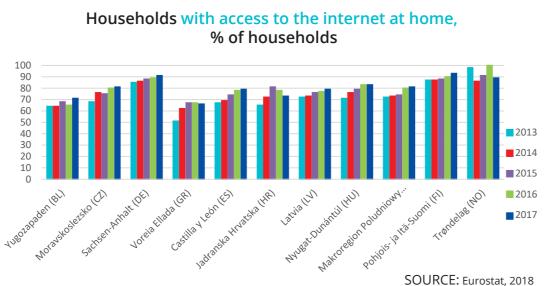
TO DESI 2018 RANKING



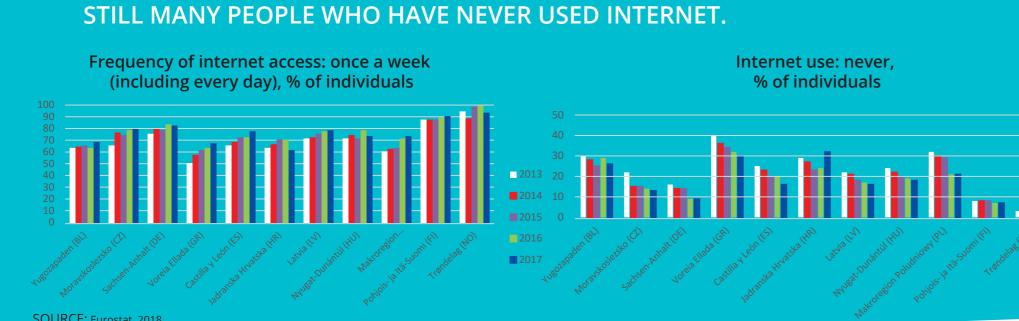
CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVED, BUT IS STILL INSUFFICIENT IN RURAL AND HARD TO REACH AREAS

Households with broadband access,
% of hoseholds



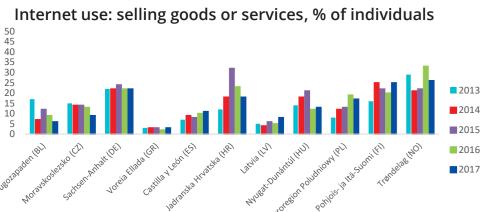


SOCIETIES AND SMES ARE GRADUALLY BECOMING MORE DIGITAL BUT THERE ARE



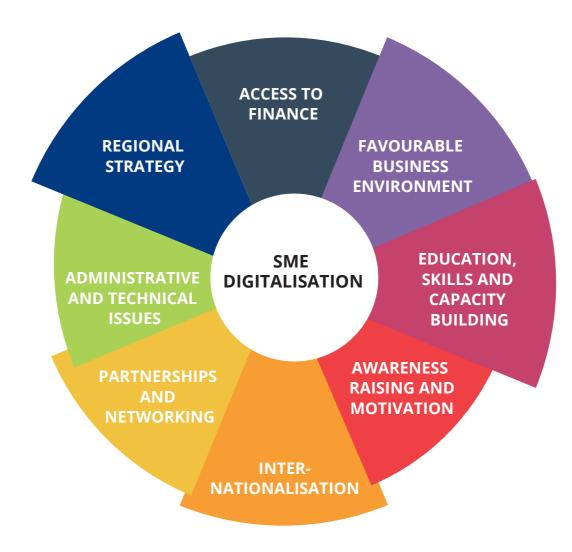
REGIONS HAVE MORE DIGITAL BUSINESSES

WHILE E-COMMERCE IS GROWING BUT TOO SLOWLY





FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING SMES DIGITALISATION

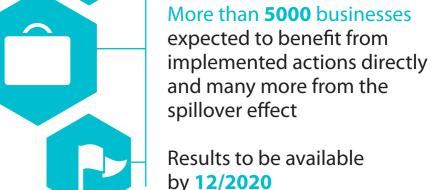


PROJECT RESULTS:



involved





COMMON CHALLENGES



Development of broadband and internet access in rural, distant and hard to reach areas



Readiness of enterprises and governmental organizations to adapt to rapidly changing digital environment and global trends

Demographic challenges related to aging population and emigration



Accessibility of skills and knowledge using ICT and digital tools

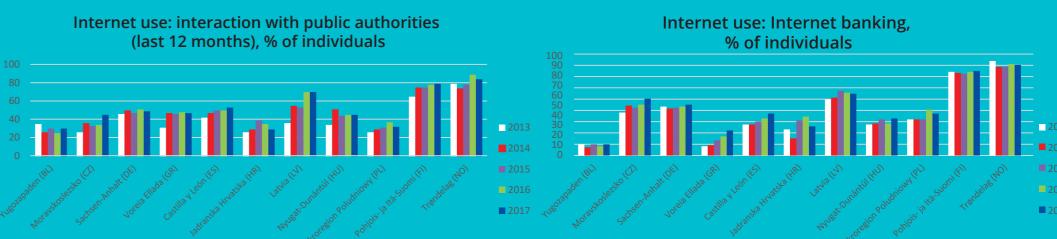


Accessibility of financing for continuous development of infrastructure and technological upgrade



Cyber security

PEOPLE INTERACT MORE WITH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ON-LINE AND USE INTERNET BANKING MORE BUT STILL REMAIN LARGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REGIONS, AS WELL AS BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.



SOURCE: Eurostat, 2018

DIGITALISATION STRENGTHENS COMPETITIVENESS OF COMPANIES AND REGIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Take use of good practices collected by SKILLS+ and other projects or networks. If necessary, the approaches should be adapted to better suit local conditions.

2. Doing business is getting more and more digitalised. Especially very small companies must be made aware of the opportunities for their business activities.

3. Adopt digitalisation strategies on national and regional levels. Encourage enterprises to adopt their individual digitalisation strategies.

4. Introduce new digital solutions and tools to SMEs and show, how these solutions could free-up resources and reduce costs providing additional resources for investing in modernization.

5. Parallel to infrastructure improvements introduce the most required non-monetary support measures, such as seminars, training, consultations, one stop shops and help-desks. Simplification of digital application and affordable, suitable and in some cases tailor made digital solutions and products for SMEs in rural areas are also required.

6. Ensure that adequate financing is available to assist companies or business support associations in their digitalisation efforts.

7. Teach the teachers and make sure that trainings offered to companies is certified.

8. Reduce unnecessary regulations and bureaucratic procedures without jeopardising online safety.

9. Build on business support networks and platforms for university-to-business cooperation to promote digitalisation.



Higher revenue



Higher market assessment



Increase of company value

www.interregeurope.eu/skillsplus





















European Union Programme Interreg Europe. Specific objective: Improving SMEs competitiveness policies



