GreenEcoNet

A best-practice platform to support SMEs transition towards a green economy

Corrado TOPI (SEI-York)
Brussels, 29th November 2013
Background

• SMEs are the core of EU economy (depending on how you measure it between ~45% and ~90%).
• SMEs are often left out of the debate on green economy
• SMEs do not have many instruments available to manage the transition to a green economy (energy efficiency, resource efficiency, and so on) in particular because of a lack of investment capacity
• SMEs have often been at the forefront of green economy transition, introduced innovative solutions and have developed revolutionary organisational, behavioural and technological approaches to the problem of sustainability and human well-being.
Aims

The aim of the project is to address these two issues:

- the disconnection between best in class / benchmark “green business” practices and the wider SMEs communities
- the disconnection between applied research institutions, who can offer support and solutions, and the SME community who can offer innovation, capacity, and flexible rapid deployment in the real world.
Objectives & Outcomes

● A EU wide network of SMEs
  ○ Workshops, conferences, meetings

● An online platform:
  ○ Opportunities for networking, funding, suppliers, customers
  ○ Case studies
  ○ Tools, Expertise & Technical Support on overcoming barriers

● **SME hubs** in few selected non EU countries

● A plan, organisational structure and funds to make the platform survive beyond the project
Project details

- GreenEcoNet is a CSA in FP7 framework
- ‘Business practices to promote green economy and SCP post Rio+20 (resource efficiency)’;
- Project duration: 06/2013 - 05/2016;
- Overall budget of 1.14 million Euros;

- The GreenEcoNet consortium:
Questions?