



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate I - Environment
I.2 - Environmental technologies

From Research to Action: **Resource Efficient Innovation for SMEs**

EU research community insights for a greener economy



Status of the art

Corrado Topi and Roberto Rinaldi, University of York and SEI, *Brussels, 25 06 2014*

Arno Behrens and Vasileios Rizos, CEPS

Martin Hirschnitz-Garbers and Terri Kafyeke, Ecologic Institute

Oliver Greenfield and Emily Benson, Green Economy Coalition

Wytze van der Gaast and Erwin Hofman, Joint Implementation Network

Sotiris Papadelis and Anastasia Ioannou, University of Piraeus Research Centre

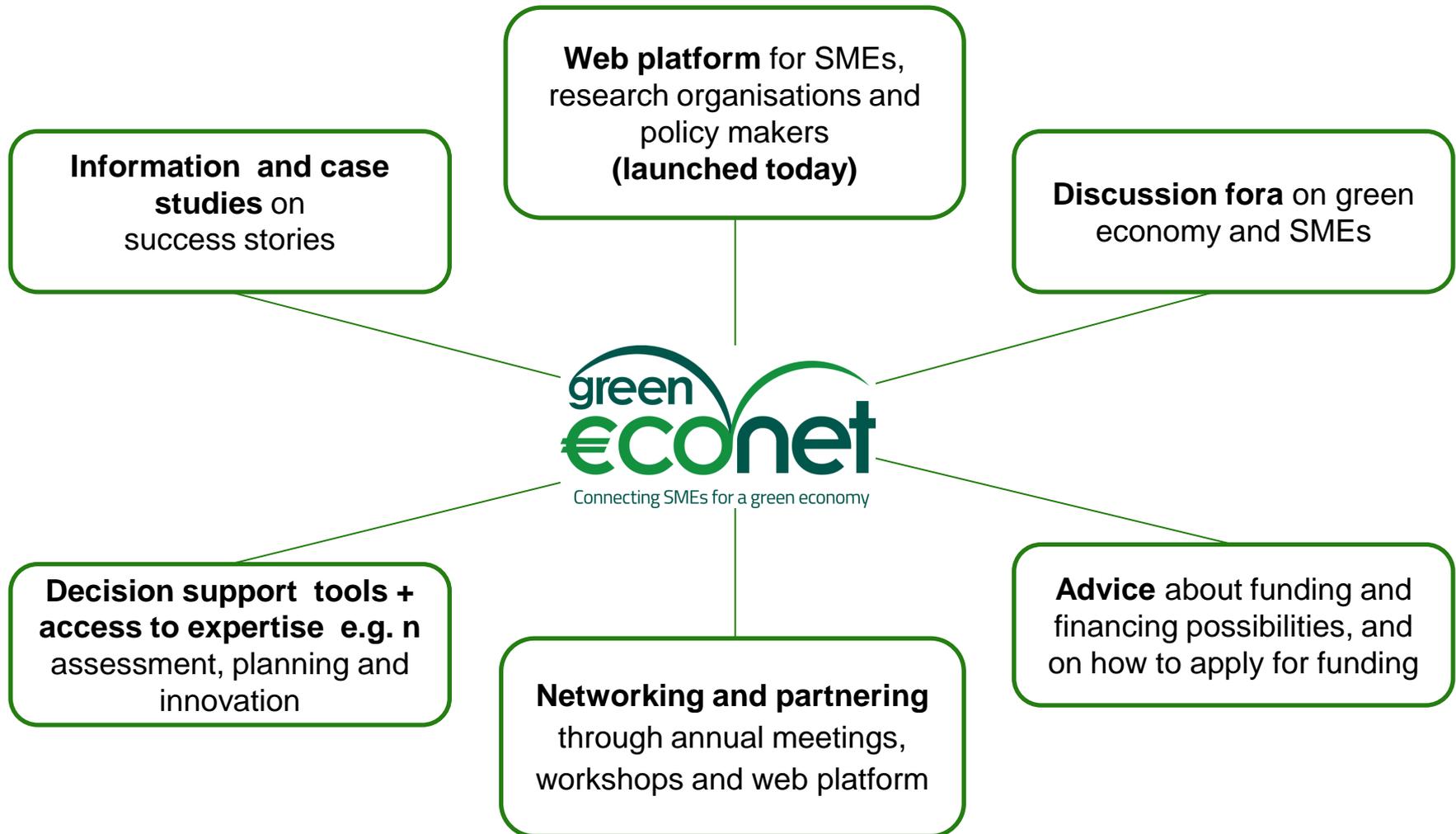


The aims



- GreenEcoNet is a project financed by the European Commission, which brings together EU businesses and research institutions in EU-wide platform that aims to:
 - **Support SMEs** in the transition to a green economy
 - Become the **reference platform** for actors (SMEs, research institutions, policy makers) who desire to be involved in the “**green economy**”.
 - Build a **network** of people and organisations + **an online platform** to:
 - Strengthen the dialogue on the green economy within the private sector, in particular SME to SME across member states
 - Close the gap between research institutions and SMEs
 - Strengthen the dialogue between SMEs and EU and Member State policy makers

The structure



To date



In the last 12 months, we have worked behind the scene to prepare the launch of the platform. We have:

- Developed a classification of actors, practices and initiatives towards the green economy
- Categorised the users and stakeholders of the platform
- Engaged representative of the stakeholders
- Designed and tested the “first release” of the GreenEcoNet platform
- Investigated and collected the decision support tools that we will make available through the platform
- Established a Pool of Experts
- Organised the first thematic workshop and annual conference

In the near future



- Consolidate the web platform using stakeholders feedback and use it to communicate green economy best practice
- Extend the stakeholder engagement
 - Through local and global initiatives activities in the MSs and partner countries through our networks and partner networks
 - By organising two thematic workshops at regional and EU level
 - By organising a the second annual conference
- Develop two simple policy briefs on green economy best practice for stakeholders

In the near future

- Investigate and produce an overview of the main barriers SMEs face to greening their operations
- Investigate what can be done to reduce those barriers through market efficiencies and novel financing mechanisms
- Collect and make available information and data on costs, benefits and financing of green solutions for SMEs

And finally

- Investigate two hot topics which have been identified through discussion with representative of SMEs networks and EU policy makers (focusing in particular on barriers and enablers to action):
 - Governance for SMEs - How can policies help 'green' entrepreneurs?
 - The circular economy: waste as business

Starting today

Questions and discussion

- THANK YOU! -

