



The GMU Project



Project: Transfer of Know-How for Small and Mid-Size Businesses in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (GMU Project)

International Conference

Kyiv, November 27, 2014



The GMU Project



Within the framework of the Project, the researchers from the Visegrad Group countries (V4: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) aim to assist the three beneficiary countries (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in further developing their analytical and policy advocacy capabilities by opening new channels of communication with the SMEs and NGOs in the four Visegrad countries and other members of the European Union.



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An objective of this effort is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and establishment of a permanent platform for sustainable co-operation, leading to bringing the SMEs in the three countries closer to the European standards and markets, while providing new business opportunities.

The Project focuses on the problem how the Ukrainian, Moldovan and Georgian SMEs could strengthen their European business and think-tank networks and effectively advocate SME-friendly policies supporting a successful development of their countries.



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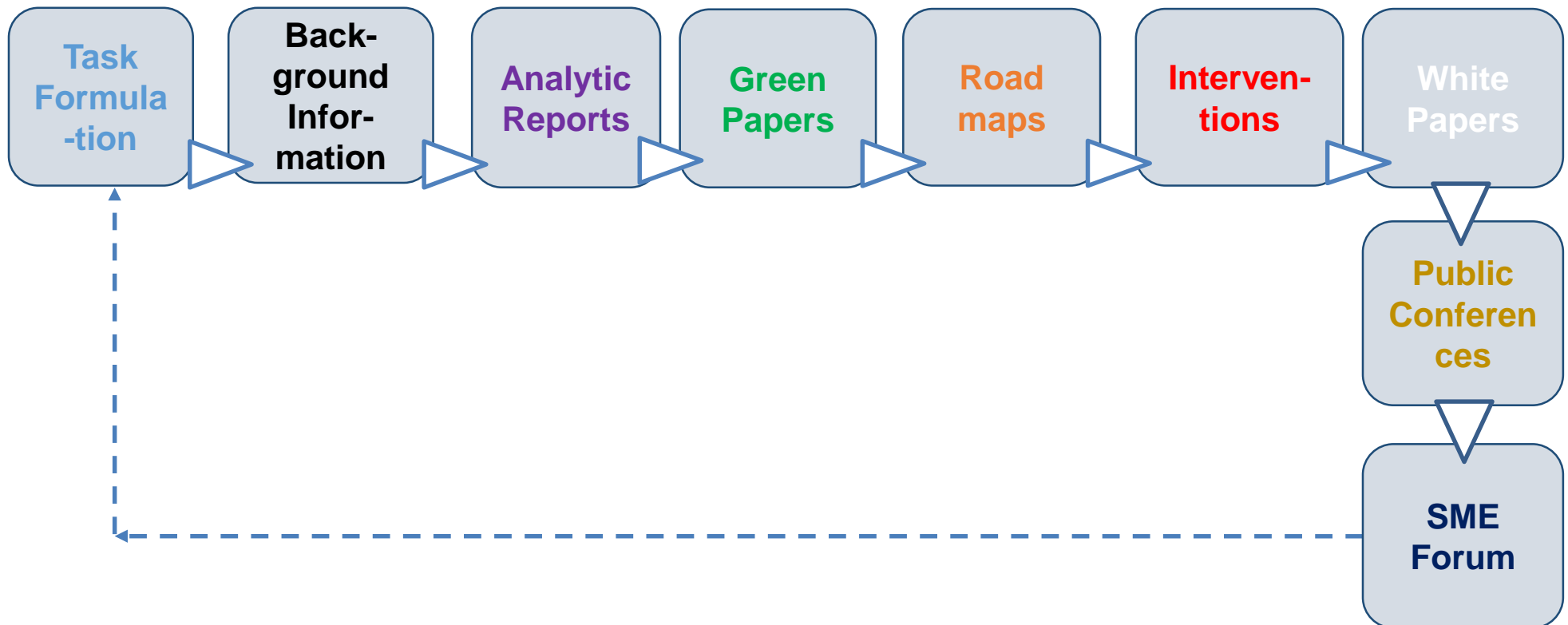


The Project is implemented by the Consortium led by CASE (Center for Social and Economic Research). Project activities are undertaken by three bilateral teams: one Visegrad Country (Czech Rep., Hungary, or Slovakia) and one Beneficiary Country (Georgia, Moldova, or Ukraine) in each:

- Team GE-CZ: run jointly CASE Georgia and the CEVRO Institute
- Team MD-HU: run by CASE-Moldova and the ICEG European Center
- Team UA-SK: run by CASE-Ukraine and Vysoká škola manažmentu

CASE Poland coordinates the activities of the Project.

Project activity flow





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In a kick-off conference in October 2013, the members of the consortium from the seven countries agreed on a detailed **TASK FORMULATION** for the project.

The first step of the project consisted of the collection of **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**. It included running of three mini-surveys, one in each beneficiary country, in order to collect the opinions of experts concerning the main problems the SMEs face in these countries. The experts were also asked to provide advice which issues would be the most appropriate for our Project to focus on.

Other important sources of information were the results of meetings and interviews with the experts that enabled us to discuss all the issues and deepen our understanding of the problems.



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Based on the collected materials several **ANALYTIC REPORTS** were written. Each of the mini-surveys, along with other available information, generated a comprehensive report of the results enabling the identification of the main issues viewed by the experts as priorities for the interventions. Also, international comparative data were used for an overview of the economies of the beneficiary countries with a focus on the macro indicators relevant for the SMEs.

The analytic reports resulted in the **GREEN PAPERS**. The papers were circulated among peer reviewers. Their comments were collected.

The Green Papers provided a base for the **ROADMAPS**, which consisted of two kinds of activities:

- Concrete interventions to be carried out by the Project in the GMU countries (feasible within the scope of the Project)
- Other suggested interventions that remained beyond the scope of the Project that were recommended to be undertaken after our project ends, in 2015 and later, to be supported by a permanent SME forum/platform that will be established at the end of the Project in November 2014.



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The selected **INTERVENTIONS** to be carried out by our project were supposed to:

- Be urgent/important
- Be coherent with the objectives of the Project
- Be consistent with a “comparative advantage” of each team (with the lessons learned by the Visegrad countries, with specific experiences of the Project’s experts, and with the needs of the beneficiary countries)



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In June-September the Green Papers were further solidified, extended, discussed with the stakeholders and edited to become the SME **WHITE PAPERS** that are meant to be the final documents of our Project. Parts of each of them will be translated into Georgian, Moldovan, and Ukrainian.

In the first half of November **PUBLIC CONFERENCES** were run in Moldova and Georgia. At these conferences, the White Papers and the results of Project's activities were presented, discussed with local officials and experts, and longer-term Roadmaps were finalized.



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At the current conference, the final results of the project will be presented, including an executive summary of the SME Ukraine White Paper, and the Permanent Working Group will be established.

The Group will continue the work initiated by the Project as well as provide support to an **SME FORUM** (an International SME Portal) – established as an internet site with a mission to solidify the links between the GMU countries on one side and the Visegrad countries and other EU countries on the other side. The Project will end in December 2014.

Best wishes

З найкращими побажаннями

საუკეთესო სურვილები

cele mai bune urări

všetko najlepšie

Všechno nejlepší

Minden jót

Wszystkiego najlepszego