

Sustainable SMEs workshop

Practical Sustainability and ESG Reporting

5th March 2026

AIM Centre

Interreg



Co-funded by
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Northern Periphery and Arctic

**Sustainable
SMEs**



Workshop facts

Target

The workshop aims to summon-up sustainability reporting experiences, challenges and existing good practices of SMEs and SME stakeholders.

The information gathered is used to plan the upcoming pilots, guidebook content and other project activities.

Participant groups in the workshop

- ✓ SME (5)
- ✓ SMEs customer (0)
- ✓ Business developer (3)
- ✓ Regional developer (2)
- ✓ Reporting expert (1)
- ✓ Researcher (0)
- ✓ Other (0)

Agenda 04.03.2026 at 13:30-16:00

Networking lunch

Welcome to workshop. Introduction to Sustainable SME project. Why we are here today.

Simplifying ESG Reporting with Practical Tools and Digital Support

AIM Centre Pilot demonstration

Breakout tables and discussion

Collaboration and co-creation:

- ✓ *Map your data*
- ✓ *Sustainability reporting challenges*
- ✓ *Where and How Sustainability tools can help you*

Closing

Fact box: What is corporate responsibility?

Social sustainability

- ✓ safe working conditions
- ✓ equal treatment and opportunities for staff
- ✓ equal treatment and opportunities for customers
- ✓ responsible data handling

Ecological sustainability

- ✓ water efficiency
- ✓ energy efficiency
- ✓ renewable energy
- ✓ reduction of emissions
- ✓ reduction of waste
- ✓ reduction of harmful substance
- ✓ circular economy

Governance and economic sustainability

- ✓ payment practices
- ✓ responsible sourcing
- ✓ prevention of misconduct
- ✓ revealing of misconduct
- ✓ animal welfare
- ✓ traceability

Workshop conclusions: findings

Benefits of sustainability reporting (Why and for whom?)

- List here the benefits that participants brought up
- Maintaining the “licence to trade”
- Business efficiency and cost reduction
- Risk management
- Strategic decision-making
- Transparency and credibility

Content of sustainability reporting (What is key content and info?)

- List here what are the key content / data that organizations report and how do they ensure they are reporting meaningful issues from their business?
- Double materiality assessment
- Recognised frameworks
- Environmental, social, governance, strategy, and supply-chain data

Challenges of sustainability reporting

- List here the challenges that participants brought up
- Data scattered across multiple systems (ERP, Excel, suppliers)Topic...
- Manual data collection and consolidationTopic...
- Difficulty calculating Scope 3 emissions
- Lack of standardised metrics across departments
- Limited internal expertise in ESG reporting
- High time and cost to prepare reports

Methods to do sustainability reporting (Methods, tools, datapoints)

- List here how organizations are doing reporting. How they collect the data, What tools are they using and/or what are key datapoints in reporting?
- Extract data from ERP systems (materials, suppliers, production volumes)
- Use energy meters and utility bills for electricity, gas, and water consumption
- Collect waste and recycling data from waste contractors
- Gather transport and logistics data from supply chain systems
- Use supplier questionnaires for Scope 3 emissions
- Data from HR systems (workforce, diversity, training, safety)

Workshop conclusions: continuation

What information participants want to share to their network from this project and its possibilities?

- List here the topics brought up
- How can organisations convert analogue data (paper records, manual readings, machine logs) into digital formats for sustainability reporting?
- How can sustainability reporting provide useful insights for business decisions, not just compliance Topic...
- How can organisations engage suppliers to provide sustainability data
- Can companies automatically extract sustainability-relevant data from documents like invoices or shipping documents

How should the information be shared?

- List here the methods (events, tools, platforms etc.) that were brought up in the Webropol questionnaire
- Industry workshops and training sessions
- Blog posts and case studies
- Short videos or tutorials explaining methods and tools
- Peer-to-peer knowledge exchange sessions

Other key topics from the workshop

- List here if there are other relevant issues from the workshop
- Need for digitalisation of sustainability data collection
- Role of AI and automation in simplifying ESG data processing and reporting Topic...
- Friction points in data collection, efforts required for data collection

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SUSTAINABLE SMEs

enhances SMEs' understanding about the reporting and the sustainability transition as a whole

- NPA project NPA0800241
- Length 4/25-3/28
- Funding about 1,5 M€
- Coordinated by Jamk University of Applied Sciences
- Partnership covers Sweden, Ireland, Iceland, Norway, and Finland

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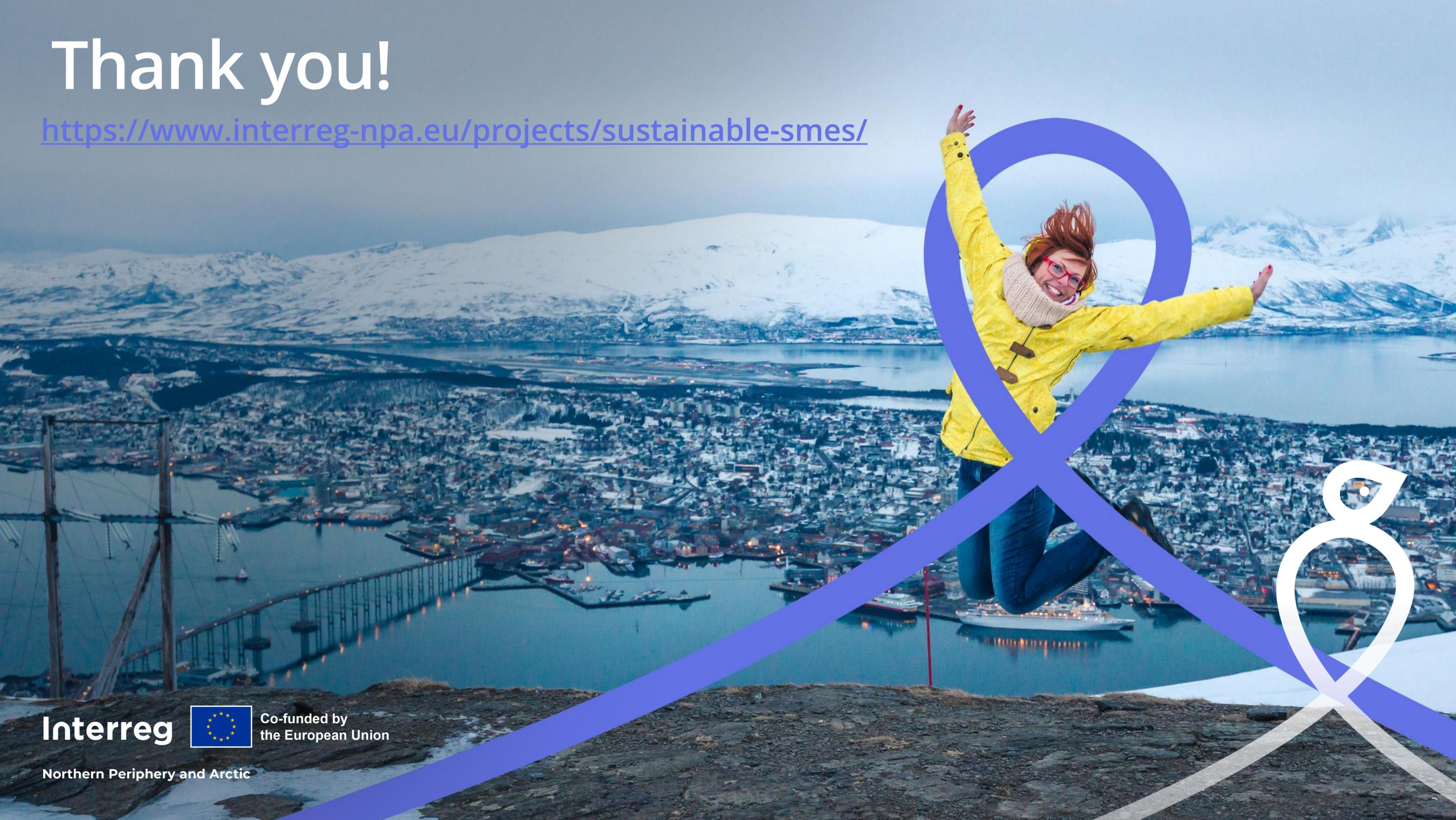
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Thank you!

<https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/sustainable-smes/>



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