

Sustainable Transition to the Agile and Green Enterprise

Creating Sustainable Leaders.



STAGE: Our progress

As the **STAGE program** is entering next phase, we have engaged with many SMEs and sustainability advisors across Europe to transform their businesses towards **sustainability**. We strongly believe focusing on sustainability enables innovation, efficiency and resourcefulness whilst futureproofing the growth and trust with customers and partners. As part of our project commitment, our aim has always been to support businesses with financing and providing necessary trainings and tools to initiate and continue the transformation.

We have completed the **4th open call for grants** and received **over 200 applications**. Currently, our consortium partners are reviewing all applications to select the most suitable applicants to support with STAGE funding.

All our **training materials** and **tools** are available for **FREE** on the STAGE platform. The programme also offers access to **additional financing and investment opportunities**, facilitated by a diverse network of European investors, banks and financial institutions. We have a number of **events** and **workshops** coming this year and we invite you all to join us and participate in the transition discussion to make a long lasting impact on your business and environment.

Grant Funding Call

STAGE partners promoted the grant widely across eligible European countries with various industries and sectors for their participation on this transformation journey. To engage with many SMEs, we have streamlined the grant funding application process: relaxed some of the requirements and most importantly we established a fixed grant amount of **EUR 25,000 per selected SME** to ensure greater social, economical and environment impacts. Due to these changes, STAGE project's 4th grant funding Open Call was divided into 3 cut-offs: 30th September, 15th November and 31st December 2024. We received a total of over 200 applications, suggesting businesses are eager for sustainable growth. Currently, the STAGE consortium is tirelessly evaluating all applications to provide financial support for the most suitable 100 applicants. Results will be published very soon.

Workshops

Business strategy workshop - Slovenia: The University of Ljubljana organized a two-day workshop, on 5th and 6th September, 2024 to train sustainability advisors to guide SME's on sustainability journey, with particular focus on social aspects. Participants explored strategies to integrate social responsibilities into business practices, foster inclusive workplaces and enhance community engagement, ensuring sustainability initiatives address not only environmental challenges but social equity and well-being.

Green Transition - Poland: Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Physics hosted the workshop on 27th September, 2024 to present sustainable transformation opportunities, covering key topics such as: critical raw materials, remanufacturing, circular economy, supply chain, sustainability reporting and most importantly the STAGE grant programme. During the event, participants discussed key transition challenges faced by SMEs. It was also a networking opportunity for participants to discuss cross sector challenges. More than 30 people participated in the event.



European Sustainable Energy Week 2024 - Brussels: STAGE partners held a dedicated stand at the event to promote the benefits and opportunities of the STAGE program. Our sustainability advisors spoke to many business leaders and attendees about sustainable transformational journey and financing support available through STAGE.

Exploring the Social Dimension of Sustainability - Webinar: The University of Ljubljana hosted this webinar on 15th November, 2024 to highlight the social impact on driving sustainable transformation. During the event, the role of social dynamics, community engagement, and collaborative efforts in achieving sustainability goals were discussed. The webinar covered topics such as the influence of social behavior on environmental practices, strategies for fostering community involvement in sustainability projects, and examples of successful social initiatives that promote sustainability.

Sustainable Approaches in the Manufacturing Environment - Slovenia: The University of Ljubljana organized this workshop on 6th December, 2024 to explore principles and practices for enhancing sustainability within manufacturing sector. During the event, participants gained practical insights into minimizing environmental impact while improving process efficiencies. Additionally, learnt key sustainability concepts, strategies for reducing waste and energy consumption, as well as gained insights into circular economy principles, assessment of carbon footprint in production processes. The workshop also covered best practices for fostering a culture of sustainability within teams.

Design for Sustainability - Webinar: Our STAGE partner SINTEF (Applied research, technology and innovation) hosted an online event to discuss how to design products for disassembly, use of next generation materials and creating value chains to extend product lifecycle. These are key topics in SME sustainability journey considering waste reduction, recycling and making a positive impact on our environment.

Road Show

The "Sustainable Synergies" roadshow was organised by Sicindustria, partner of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) in Palermo, Italy, on 21st November 2024. This roadshow was one of the six promotional events in the region of Sicily, with the focus on sustainability for SMEs. The event's primary focus was on ESG, aiming

to enhance awareness, transparency and evaluation with production processes and supply chains. In addition, participants discussed how STAGE can support SMEs with technical and financial support. The event was very successful and attended by many local SMEs and broadcasted over YouTube for wider audience.



Upcoming Events

- Slovenia - University of Ljubljana will be hosting number of physical workshops and online events on the subject of sustainability through spring and summer 2025. Please look for news and announcements on the STAGE website.
- Germany - INAM (Innovation Network for Advanced Materials) will be hosting the following events:
 - 23 Jan: Secure and Sustainable Supply Chains
 - 13 Feb: Chemicals and Green Chemistry – Compliance and sustainable solutions
 - 20 Mar: Batteries – Materials and Circular Economy
 - Apr: Supply Chains & Risk Management for Batteries
 - May: Waste Management – Innovative Technologies and Regulations
 - June: STAGE final event; Plastics – Sustainable Alternatives and Circular Economy in Packaging
 - July: Plastics – Design for Recycling and Innovation Projects
 - Sept: Raw Materials – Ensuring Supply Chain Resilience for Critical Materials
 - Oct: Substitute Materials – Sustainable Alternatives and Material Innovations

Please visit the website and register on the platform to access
FREE tools & training materials,
as well as find sustainable advisors in your region.

[Visit STAGE](#)

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