

# Equality Impact Assessment

## Name of project/proposal

Everywhere International SMEs (EIS)  
Interreg Europe project

Contact name

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Department

Corporate Services

Date to be published on Hantsweb

01 Apr 2017

## Purpose for project/proposal

The purpose of the Everywhere International SMEs (EIS) project is to support more SMEs to compete internationally by comparing, contrasting and improving regional support mechanisms to help SMEs internationalise. The project will be supported by funding from the European Funding stream *Interreg Europe*, which offers 85% funding for approved project costs and will involve 9 partners from across the EU.

SMEs can be hampered in their pursuit of how to internationalise by an array of intermediary agencies in both public and private sectors offering similar services that may not cover all the required support. This leads to the picture for the SME being confusing, which may well explain a lack of take up of SMEs internationalising their products and services. EIS will compare regional good practices from across Europe and specifically interrogate the governance structures deployed by the participating regions. Through the development of regional action plans, it is intended that the project will bring about improved policy measures to support SMEs to internationalise.

## Consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? No

## Statutory considerations

### Impact

Age	Low
Disability	None
Sexual orientation	None
Race	None
Religion and belief	None
Gender reassignment	None
Sex	None
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None

### Other policy considerations

Poverty	Low
Rurality	None
Other factors	Low
If other please describe	Positive socio-economic impact as the project may create jobs

Geographical impact

All Hampshire

Have you identified any medium or high impact?\*

Yes

No

The project aims to support SMEs to internationalise their businesses, it will therefore benefit working age people more than retired people or children, leading to a low impact in this area. There could also be a low impact in terms of poverty as the project will only

benefit those people who are working. There could be a small socio-economic impact as the project may create new jobs if businesses are able to grow through internationalising. The project does not have any limitations in terms of any of the other characteristics as it is a completely open project that anyone can participate in, provided that they run/ are involved in an SME.

**Final decision date**

Final decision date due  
Decision to be made by

01 Apr 2017  
Executive Member