

## OUTPUT FACTSHEET

Project index number	CE0100383	Acronym	SMERF
Output type (*x* to be included)	Strategy/ action plan		Pilot action
			Solution
Output number (O.xx)	03.2	Output title	SMERF Memorandum of Understanding
If the output target is > 1 in the AF, please specify the output(s) described in the factsheet	16		
Output delivery date	31.03.2026		
Project website	<a href="https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/smerf/">https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/smerf/</a>		

### Summary description of the output

*Please present the output by addressing the following topics.*

#### ***Territorial challenges and needs in the regions specifically addressed by the output***

*(max. 700 characters)*

SMEs in the SMERF regions face similar transformation challenges, but regional support capacities remain uneven. Less developed innovation ecosystems often lack stable cross-border links, access to tested support methods, and continuity after project-based cooperation ends. As a result, valuable know-how, tools, and stakeholder networks risk being fragmented or lost. The output addresses the need for a durable cooperation framework that helps organisations continue joint learning, exchange, and coordinated support for SME transformation beyond the project lifetime.

#### ***Main aim(s) of the output and how it contributes to tackle the identified challenge(s)***

*(max. 500 characters)*

The main aim of the output is to ensure that cooperation built within SMERF continues after project completion through a formal Memorandum of Understanding. It helps tackle the risk of fragmentation and loss of project results by creating a shared framework for joint knowledge exchange, promotion and use of SMERF outputs, and continued cross-border support for SMEs in their transformation towards future readiness.

### **Technical description of the output (e.g. scope, main features, innovative elements etc.)**

*(max. 1500 characters)*

The output consists of a formal Memorandum of Understanding establishing a post-project cooperation framework for 16 organisations: the 8 SMERF Project Partners and 8 additional organisations from the participating countries. Its scope covers the continuation of cross-border cooperation after project completion, with a focus on sustaining the use, promotion and further uptake of key SMERF results.

The main features of the output include a voluntary and non-binding cooperation model, a shared declaration of commitment to maintain collaboration, and a light governance structure based on a coordinator, contact persons in each organisation, and periodic coordination meetings. The MoU also defines the common thematic focus of future cooperation, including SME transformation, peer learning, dissemination of project results, and exploration of further joint initiatives.

An important practical element of the output is the indication of responsibilities for maintaining key digital project outputs after the end of funding, including the SMERF Inspiration Knowledge Base and the SMERF Diagnosis Tool. Its innovative element lies in transforming a time-limited project partnership into a structured but flexible post-project network, combining institutional continuity with the involvement of additional external organisations, thus strengthening the long-term durability and transfer potential of SMERF results.

### **Involvement of target groups during output development and/or implementation**

*(max. 700 characters)*

Target groups were involved mainly through the inclusion of organisations able to use, promote and further transfer SMERF results after project completion. During output development, Project Partners discussed the scope of future cooperation, sustainability needs and responsibilities for maintaining key outputs. In implementation, additional external organisations from partners' countries were engaged as signatories, strengthening the practical relevance of the MoU and embedding the post-project cooperation concept in wider regional innovation and SME support ecosystems.

### **Cooperation dimension of the output, i.e. joint development within the partnership and, if applicable, joint implementation (see output indicator definitions in chapter 1.3.3 and Annex 2 of the programme manual)**

*(max. 700 characters)*

The output was jointly developed by the SMERF partnership, which collaboratively defined the scope, purpose and governance principles of the Memorandum of Understanding, as well as the responsibilities linked to the sustainability of key project results. Its implementation also has a joint dimension, as all 8 Project Partners signed the document and contributed to engaging additional organisations from their countries. In this way, the output reflects coordinated cross-border commitment to continue cooperation after project completion.

**Results - expected change and lasting effects in the territories generated specifically by the output, its uptake by relevant organisations and benefits for target groups**

*(max. 1000 characters)*

The output is expected to generate lasting territorial effects by ensuring that cooperation established within SMERF continues beyond the funded project period. Its uptake by the 16 signatory organisations strengthens the long-term use, visibility and transfer of key SMERF results in regional SME support ecosystems. As a result, target groups, especially SMEs and business support actors, may continue benefiting from access to tested tools, knowledge resources and transnational exchange. The output also reduces the risk that project achievements remain isolated or discontinued after project closure.

**Ownership and durability of the output after the project end, considering financial and institutional support including, if applicable, maintenance**

*(max. 700 characters)*

The output is jointly owned by the signatory organisations through their shared commitment expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding. Its durability is ensured primarily through institutional rather than financial arrangements, as the MoU provides a voluntary framework for continued cooperation after project end. Maintenance of key digital outputs is also supported through clearly indicated responsibilities: the SMERF Inspiration Knowledge Base by TUKE and the SMERF Diagnosis Tool by CRIT. The signatories also commit to promoting and using SMERF results within their regular activities.

**Transferability of the output to other territories, sectors or target groups and planned measures for supporting such transfer**

*(max. 700 characters)*

The output is highly transferable, as the Memorandum of Understanding offers a simple and adaptable model for sustaining cooperation after project completion. It can be replicated in other territories, sectors or multi-actor initiatives where long-term use of project results depends on continued institutional commitment. Its transfer is supported by the clear structure of the MoU, the involvement of both project and external organisations, and by the continued promotion, use and visibility of SMERF tools and knowledge resources in different regional and thematic contexts.

Related final deliverable(s) (Number(s) and title(s) to be included)	D3.5.3 Report on SMERF Memorandum of Understanding
Output web link (if applicable)	
GPS coordinates (if applicable)	