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# ioreSME Newsletter

PROJECT 101051860

## THE EFFECTS OF THE GREEN DEAL ON MICRO BUSINESSES

The EU Green Deal has numerous significant effects on small firms. Here are a few of the most significant:

### ***Standards and Regulations***

The EU Green Deal establishes stronger environmental standards and regulations, notably those that pertain to lowering greenhouse gas emissions, advancing renewable energy, and enhancing resource efficiency. Micro firms must abide by these laws, which may entail adopting new procedures, spending money on environmentally friendly technology, or changing how they conduct business.

### ***Low-Carbon Economy Transition***

By 2050, the EU Green Deal seeks to achieve a low-carbon economy. Micro enterprises are faced with both possibilities and challenges throughout this transformation. There are potential advantages in the form of new market prospects for sustainable goods and services, even though they may initially incur greater prices.

### ***Access to Funding and Support***

Small and micro businesses can benefit from funding programs offering resources for capacity building and technical expertise. These supportive measures can help implement eco-friendly measures and improve competitiveness.

### ***Green Public Procurement***

The EU encourages green public procurement. Small businesses can leverage these opportunities by offering sustainable solutions and participating in green procurement processes.

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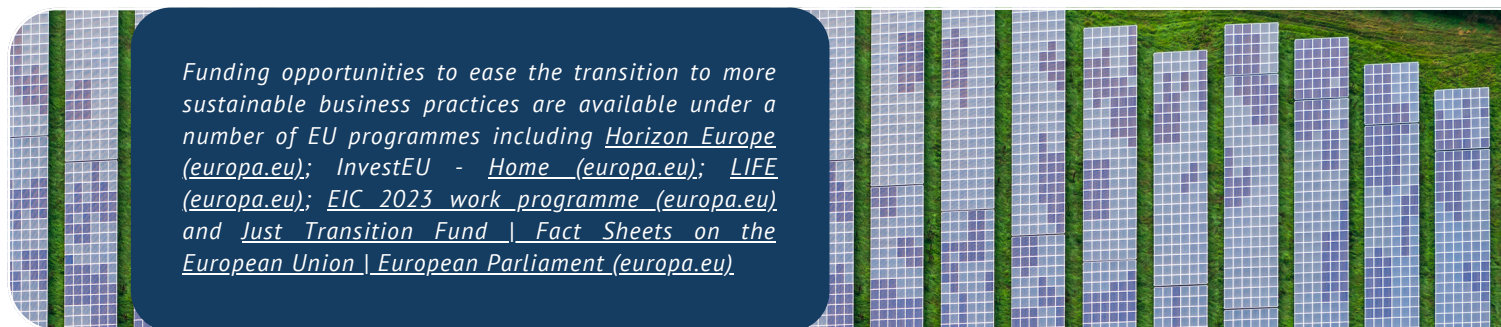
### **Consumer Demand**

Consumers are increasingly environmentally conscious, thus, increasing the demand for sustainable products and services. Micro businesses addressing the consumer's environmental sensitivity will improve their market position and competitiveness.

### **Circular Economy**

Businesses can benefit from adopting circular economy principles by minimising waste and working with more innovative ways of operations, including product recycling, repair, and remodelling.

The EU Green Deal is a challenge from a compliance and investment point of view. The slowdown brought about by the Covid pandemic, and now the inflationary effects of the war presented business owners with unprecedented challenges. Yet the transition to a 'greener' way of doing business offers opportunities for market differentiation and long-term sustainable practices.



## **THE EU PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS**

The EU Pillar of Social Rights aims to enhance social standards and rights within the European Union. The Pillar is built on 20 key principles. One of its primary focuses is ensuring fair and decent working conditions. The European Pillar of Social Rights is not directly binding on businesses, its principles and rights can be reflected in legally binding measures at the EU and national levels that may impose obligations on businesses in relation to labour and social policies.

**1. Working conditions:** The pillar promotes equal opportunities, fair wages, and work-life balance. Micro businesses need to adhere to these principles when it comes to hiring practices, remuneration, and ensuring a healthy work-life balance for their employees.

**2. Social protection:** The pillar emphasises access to social protection, including adequate healthcare, unemployment benefits, and pensions. Micro businesses may need to contribute to social security systems and provide benefits to their employees, ensuring their social protection rights.

**3. Skill development:** The pillar encourages lifelong learning and skills development. Micro businesses may need to invest in training programs and support their employees' professional development to comply with these principles.

**4. Access to social dialogue:** The pillar promotes social dialogue between employers, employees, and their representatives. Micro businesses should engage in constructive dialogue with their employees or their representatives to address workplace issues and ensure their voices are heard.

**5. Fair competition:** The pillar aims to create a level playing field for businesses. Micro businesses should comply with fair competition principles while respecting workers' rights, preventing unfair advantages based on non-compliance.

*It's important to note that the specific impact on micro businesses may vary depending on national regulations, sector-specific requirements, and the size and nature of the business.*

# LATEST NEWS

- The first Pact for Skills annual report was published last month. Pact for Skills, launched in 2002, seeks to help address the future needs of Europe's workforce. Over 1000 organisations for all EU MSs have joined. These consist of individual organisations, stakeholder partnerships and European umbrella organisations. According to the survey results (carried out in March 23), the efforts undertaken have reached an estimated 2 million individuals, with an aggregate investment of close to EUR 160 million in upskilling and reskilling activities.

**Read more** [Pact for Skills Annual Report 2022 - V3 - Final \(1\).pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- The EC adopted two proposals for a Council Recommendation to address the digital divide by improving digital skills teaching and ensuring universal access to inclusive and high-quality digital education and training. The proposals aim to address the lack of a universal approach to digital education and training and the difficulties in equipping people with the necessary digital skills. The EC calls on MS to adopt the recommendations for Council Recommendations. The EC will set up a High-Level Group on Digital Education and Skills to support the implementation of the recommendations.

**Read more** [Commission calls for massive investment in digital education and skills - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Slovenia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Portugal, and Malta have agreed to a concerted effort to turn the Mediterranean region into a hub of renewable energy. The effort will be supported by the EU Commission. The countries signed a declaration at the end of the Med 9 meeting held in Malta on the 18th May '23. Energy Minister for Malta, Miriam Dalli, said that the vision was to replicate in the Mediterranean the success already achieved in the North Sea when it comes to offshore renewable energy deployment.

**Read more** [PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND ENTERPRISE: Med9 energy ministers reach agreement establishing a Mediterranean Green Energy Hub \(gov.mt\)](#)



- The EC has launched the first international tender for gas purchasing under the EU Energy Platform. This is a historic step when the EU is leveraging its collective economic weight to secure the provision of energy.

**Read more** [Joint gas purchases under the EU Energy Platform \(europa.eu\)](#)

- A call for proposals is currently open under the Innovation Fund. This fund is one of the largest funding programmes for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies. The Fund is made possible via the Emissions Trading Principle (ETS), which gathers funds from polluters who must pay for their greenhouse gas emissions.

**Read more** [Innovation Fund \(europa.eu\)](#)

This newsletter is part of the loreSME project and seeks to provide information pertinent to the business community on the EU Green Deal and European Pillar of Social Rights.

loreSME project aims to raise awareness of and give visibility to the activity/function/responsibility of SME employer organisations in the EU and foster their role as social partners. loreSME seeks to understand the expectations of the members of the Social Partners (SPs) while providing the opportunity for the SPs to raise awareness of their services and their role in the social dialogue discourse in their country.

The Partners of the Project are [Malta Chamber of SMEs \(smechamber.mt\)](http://smechamber.mt); [About | GSEVEE: Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants](#); [CNA | Confederazione Nazionale dell'artigianato e della Piccola e Media Impresa](#); [Home | UNIZO](#); [home - Confartigianato Imprese](#); [SMEunited | Crafts & SMEs in Europe](#); [About us \(ozs.si\)](#)

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