AFGI

Access to Finance for Growth & Innovation

2

What challenge or problem are you addressing? What is the need for the project?

New circuits of capital and funding mechanisms are becoming increasingly important for fast growth and technologically-based businesses. Paradoxically more funding sources have made it more difficult for firms to know how to access these efficiently and successfully. New financial instruments require new skills and tools. This project will focus on new ways of developing expertise within and between firms and intermediaries to reduce the transaction and learning costs for success in accessing finance from crowd funding sources.

Objective of the project:

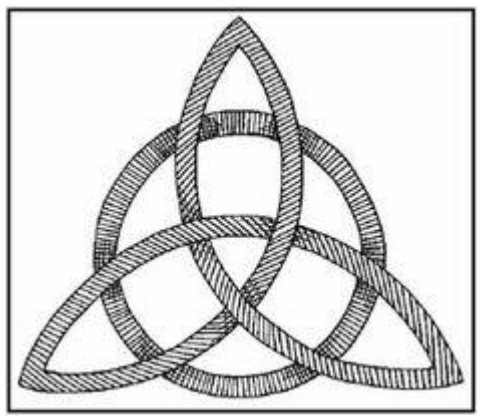
We will identify the new expertise entrepreneurs need to successfully access different types of crowdfunding. It will demonstrate how this expertise is best acquired, taking SMEs through the process.

Why do you need transnational cooperation?

- Fintech is global: crowdfunding investors focus on the business idea & markets not borders
- Knowledge and know-how is dispersed across countries and organisations
- NWE has the range of partners, experience and networks to test approaches
- Transnational partners will help SMEs to "pitch" ideas and projects to different investment markets

What kind or partners are you looking for?

- Business advisers/mentors and associations
- Businesses wishing to fund innovation & growth
- Young SMEs (i.e. > 2 years old)
- Universities and their enterprise departments
- Local authorities engaged in regeneration and/or incubation
- Crowdfunding associations
- Innovation and incubation centres



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