

SME/HPC project Enabling SMEs to gain competitive advantage from the use of HPC

SME/HPC Regional Workshops

SME/HPC partners organized **five regional workshops** which addressed regional partners from the **business community** in the pilot regions of Ireland, Romania and Slovenia. These events were moderated in such a way as to **contribute to the strategic dialogue** between HEIs and the business/enterprise community as well as to **disseminate information** about SME/HPC.

The workshops contributed to the SME/HPC project results. Moreover, they significantly influenced the regional stakeholders by:

- informing attendees on the potential and benefits of HPC for SMEs,
- gathering regional stakeholders at an event where information could be obtained along with exploring their views and expectations from the future work in the field of bridging the gap between HPC at HEIs and SMEs,
- steering the discussion about enterprises' needs,
- presenting the success stories and good practices of HPC usage by small and medium enterprises from different sectors and the importance of technology transfer,
- offering contact information of potential regional stakeholders to contribute to the SME/HPC project,
- enabling the strategic dialogue between HEIs and the business community in South- East Ireland regarding HPC,
- addressing the question of IPR rights,
- offering the participants a networking opportunity. Thus, participants exchanged ideas and agreed on close cooperation also in the future.

Romania (Bucharest, April, 2018):

The workshop was organised by the Romanian project partner UEFISCDI. It was aimed to introduce the SME/HPC project to **regional stakeholders** and to start the **strategic dialogue** with and between regional enterprises and higher education institutions (HEIs).

The workshop was attended by 15 participants. Among them were **representatives of the business community, HEIs and NGOs** from various sectors (urbanism, software, services, automotive) and of the SME/HPC regional project team.



The SME/HPC regional project team introduced the SME/HPC project and gave a short presentation about the nature of HPC.

In a round table discussion, participants talked about the special needs of enterprises. The following needs were given special emphasis: **the need to produce and deliver faster**, to increase efficiency and productivity and to handle large amounts of data.



Afterwards, the participants debated over **how HPC could respond to these needs**. As the majority of participants had low or little knowledge about HPC, the regional SME/HPC

team used the experience of InnoHPC project, funded under Danube Transnational programme.

Then the participants worked in small groups and looked for **regional, national and international HPC knowledge providers**. Together with the stakeholders the participants **discussed about how they could benefit from using HPC**.

At the end of the workshop, the participants were given the chance to engage in a networking activity to **exchange ideas, thus creating the basis for a strategic dialogue**.

Ireland (Waterford, June 2018)

The objective of the event, organised by the project partner Waterford Institute of Technology, was threefold. First, it aimed at informing the attendees on the **potential of HPC for SMEs and also South-East Ireland**.



Second, it aimed at administering a survey on **HPC awareness**. Third, it aimed at obtaining **contact information** of potential regional stakeholders to contribute to the SME/HPC project.



Slovenia (Novo mesto, October 2018)

The main aim of the workshop, organised by the project partners Vega Press Ltd. and the Faculty of Information Studies, was to **gather regional stakeholders** at an event where information can be obtained along with exploring their views and expectations from the future work in the field of **bridging the gap between HPC at HEIs and SMEs**. The motive of the agenda was **to start nurturing the strategic dialog**.

The workshop was attended by 22 participants. Among them were representatives of the business community and HEIs and other stakeholders from the region, who deal with the **development of a supportive environment for SMEs**. **The SME/HPC regional project team, and the SME/HPC UK team also participated.**

The SME/HPC regional project team introduced the SME/HPC project and gave a short presentation about what HPC is.



A round table discussion followed about the **enterprises' needs**, the HPC situation in general and the role of HEIs. The main conclusion was that the south-East region of Slovenia is well developed. The cooperation between HEIs and SMEs is already good but at the same time it was also highlighted that the benefits of HPC usage need to be promoted further.



It was emphasised that there are many good **opportunities to enhance the cooperation via EU funded and nationally funded projects**. The critical attitude of SMEs toward technological changes was considered being a major obstacle. Additionally, the question of **IPR rights** emerged since SMEs usually do not have sufficient knowledge to protect their rights. Consequently, they rather decide not to cooperate with HEIs and HPC centres.

In the last session, a short introduction to another **HPC related project** and its initiatives was offered: the open call for SMEs to participate in the testing of a virtual ecosystem for SMEs, HPC competence centres and HPC services centres.

At the end of the workshop, participants were offered a **networking opportunity** where they exchanged ideas and agreed on a closer cooperation also in the future.

Slovenia (Novo mesto, December 2019)

The main aim of the workshop, organised by the project partners Vega Press Ltd. and the Faculty of Information Studies **in collaboration with the Business Incubator Novo mesto**, was **to gather regional stakeholders** to disseminate the SME/HPC project results and information on HPC. As a result, the workshop was organised as an informal discussion with SMEs during a “HPC with breakfast” session.



The workshop was attended by 12 participants including the HPC regional project team, representatives from the business community, HEIs and other stakeholders from the region, who deal with the **development of a supportive environment**.

The SME/HPC regional project team introduced the SME/HPC project and gave a short **presentation** about what HPC is. A discussion followed about the enterprises' needs, the HPC situation in general and the role of HEIs. Moreover, the discussion also focused on **success stories and good practices of HPC usage** by small and medium enterprises from different sectors and the importance of technology transfer. It was emphasised that there are many good opportunities to use HPC to solve their own problems.



At the end of the workshop, participants were offered a **networking opportunity** where they had the chance to exchange ideas and where they agreed on a **closer future cooperation**.

Ireland (Waterford, January 2020)

There were 15 participants in total who took part in this regional workshop. They were divided among **business owners and HEI staff**. Thus, over 73% of the attendants were from businesses in Waterford. This event was made possible through the initiative of the WIT SME/HPC team to support a Waterford Chamber of Commerce (WCC) meeting to be held in the ArcLabs Innovation & Research Centre. The organisers of the event from the WCC, gave a slot of time for the SME/HPC Project to promote its activities as well as to present on HPC for SMEs.



Initially, the discussions focused on **recent developments in the city**. Subsequently, they moved around supercomputers, HPC and ICT solutions in general. The environment was very positive to talk about HPC.

The SME/HPC project team presented the project. This was followed by a presentation about the benefits of HPC for SMEs. At the end of the event, there was a tour to Kay, the supercomputer hosted at WIT.

The objectives of the workshop were twofold, to contribute to the **strategic dialogue between HEIs and the business community** in South-East Ireland regarding HPC and to **disseminate information** about the SME/HPC project. Both objectives were met successfully. Business owners who attended the event were surprised by the number of applications that HPC offers, which can benefit their own enterprises but also the city of Waterford.



They also understood the value of the SME/HPC and, as a result, their contact details are going to be used for the next project undertaking.

More information about **HPC** is available **HERE**:

<https://insidehpc.com/hpc-basic-training/what-is-hpc/>

To learn more **about the project**, please visit our **Webpage**: <https://www.smehpc.eu/>.

Partners of the project:



Waterford Institute of Technology
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