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Research notification

1. Name of the study

This is a research notification about the “intermediary organization survey and interviews” related to Ecolabnet project (Project Number: #R077).

2. Request to participate in a study

You are requested to participate in a study and give your inputs to Ecolabnet project. Ecolabnet is a project funded by EU Interreg Baltic Sea Region. The project aims to create a network of service providers for supporting eco-innovations in manufacturing SMEs of Baltic Sea Region. The duration of Ecolabnet project is 1.1.2019-30.6.2021. This notification describes the study and participation in it.

The partner organisations in the project are from Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, and Denmark. Please find more information about the project here <https://ecolabnet.org/>.

3. The purpose of the study

This “intermediary organization survey and interviews” study aims to create knowledge about the intermediate organisations’ experiences and roles in supporting development of eco-innovations in SME’s as well as needs for expertise and collaboration models.

In order to understand the role and requirements in supporting the development of eco-innovations in SME companies, we need input from intermediary organisations. Furthermore, we are interested in understanding the needs of cooperation between intermediary organizations, SMEs and educational institutions.

4. Benefits of participation

Your **benefits** of participating in the survey:

- You will be able to give your inputs to develop a network of experts to support SMEs.
- You and your organization will acquire inspiration and exchange experiences with other intermediary organizations working within eco-innovation.

5. Voluntariness

Participating in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in this study or cancel your participation at any time.

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6. Progress of the study

Research data will be gathered through electronic questionnaire by using SurveyMonkey. The data will be gathered from Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, and Denmark. The survey is open 27.9.2019-1.11.2019. We reserve the possibility to extend the research period if we have not reached required amount of responses (in total 120).

Filling the questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes. In survey you as a respondent can indicate your interest in participating also in personal interview and your willingness to receive more information and upcoming events. Only those who voluntarily provide their contact information are contacted afterwards.

7. Confidentiality

Your survey answers will be sent to a link at SurveyMonkey.com where data will be stored in a password protected electronic format. The information you provide will be kept completely confidential. The data is analysed in statistical methods and no individual responses can be identified.

At the end of the survey you will be asked if you are interested in participating in an additional interview by phone. Even if you choose to provide contact information (your name, your phone number, email address) no names or identifying information would be included in any publications or presentations based on these data, and your responses to this survey will remain confidential.

8. Processing personal data

Description of the processing of personal data is described in Ecolabnet privacy notice.

9. Research costs

No fee will be paid for participating in the study.

10. Research results and their announcement

The study will be used in providing knowledge about practical needs of intermediary organisations in supporting SMEs in eco-innovation activities. This knowledge will be the backbone in creating the external collaboration model that will describe how the collaboration between the SME's, RDI's and intermediaries will function and operate in practice. In addition, it will explain the expertise and facilities needed to support ecological innovations in SMEs.

The public report of the intermediary survey and interviews will be found in the project webpages www.ecolabnet.org.

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11. Contact details for obtaining additional information

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