



**GOAL 2.3  
IP SERVICES FOR SMEs**

**PROJECT MANAGER**

Richelle Spiekerman

**TIMELINE**

January 2021 to June 2025

**INVESTMENT**

EUR 1 888 070

**STAFF INVOLVED**

23.38 Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)

**MOST IMPACTED CAPITAL<sup>1</sup>**

Relational

**MOST IMPACTED STAKEHOLDER**

Users & Institutions

<sup>1</sup> As part of an integrated thinking approach, in 2016 the Office adopted the five capitals value creation model (human, organisational, relational, economic & environmental).

**SME PROGRAMME:  
SME NETWORK AND COLLABORATION**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Europe's economy. They represent **99 % of all businesses in the EU**. In the past five years, they have created around 85% of new jobs and provided two-thirds of the total private sector employment in the EU.

The Office's **SME Programme** foresees four work-streams: Outreach and Communication, Data Driven Science, SME Supportive Instruments, Network and Collaboration.

The project's vision is **to build and support the emergence of a powerful new network** to bring to fruition the vision of the SME Programme to **'empower EU SMEs, protecting and enforcing their competitive advantage through IP rights'**. Building a strong collaborative network to reach out to SMEs, replicating consistent messages, will be key to stimulate and reinforce behavioural changes towards **IP, innovation and growth**, taking into consideration that the main reason why SMEs do not use IP is 'lack of knowledge and/or information'.

**EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- Enlarged and strengthened network cooperating within the framework of the SME Programme
- Increased potential outreach to SMEs, disseminating targeted information and generating IPR awareness