



## PROJECT PARTNERSHIP GREEN STRATEGY

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[www.smecrisistoolkit.eu](http://www.smecrisistoolkit.eu)

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# 01 SECURE PROJECT

The SECure Project involves 6 partners from 5 EU Member States. These partners represent HEIs, SMEs, learning providers, networks and public institutions from across 5 EU Member States. The extensive experience and expertise of the partners provide an ideal foundation to achieve the project's objective.



momentum  
[educate + innovate]



lyit

Institiúid Teicneolaíochta  
Leitir Ceanaínn  
Letterkenny Institute  
of Technology

*the vision  
works*



European  
E-Learning  
Institute



**Academy of  
Entrepreneurship®**

## 02 OUR OBJECTIVES

SECure is working to assist small and medium-sized companies facing an acute business crisis, to determine the crisis status, identify possible causes and initiate appropriate countermeasures.

### *The specific objectives are:*



Identify the most relevant early phase crisis indicators for SMEs by extensive research of the area.



Develop an innovative curriculum and learning framework for (future) Entrepreneurs empowering them to implement early warning systems into their organisations to become more crisis resilient (Stand-alone Online-Course as well as curricula to be implemented by trainers, consultants, VET and Entrepreneurship/SME support structures).



Develop an interactive crisis analysis tool that enables SME owners/managers to identify the phase, the extent, and the causes of the crisis.



To ensure wide and free access, all produced resources will be shared together with a large variety of additional information on our interactive knowledge exchange platform as OERs

SECure aims to achieve the above goal in a sustainable and environmentally conscious way, using the extensive expertise of the project partnership in the responsible implementation of the project outputs.

The SECure partners, at both an organisational level and as a project consortium, are fully aware of our responsibilities and will work toward to setting a good example.

### *The priorities of the partnership are :*



Successful partnership and cooperation



Quality, learning and impact



Communication



Inclusivity

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***While the project work is based on individual partner contracts within the legal framework of the Erasmus+ programme, SECure will be centred around partnership cooperation, equal input and active participation for all involved to achieve high-quality resources and toolkit.***

All partners have constant access to relevant project documentation and resources via the dropbox platform to ensure that the project progression will be collaborative and transparent.

All partners are committed to a productive and solution-oriented discussion culture and to address problem areas early and openly in order to develop and implement joint solutions. Partners are always welcome to provide feedback to LYIT as project lead if they see areas where further improvement can be achieved.

The project does not have its own legal form and does not have own staff employed - the respective partner organisations are responsible for ensuring the diversity of their staff and a pleasant working atmosphere against the background of their respective legal frameworks in their jurisdictions.

As a partnership, we stand by the commitment to equally respect and integrate all partners involved in the project and their staff and without restriction based on origin, gender, religiosity, sexual orientation, or other diversity characteristics.

Most of the project work is taking place in a virtual context. However, we understand virtual work also takes up physical resources. Increasing internet use leads to rising energy consumption and already causes about the same amount of carbon dioxide as air travel.

***We respond to this by trying to make our virtual work as resource efficient as possible e.g.***

- Keep data volumes small where possible.
- Save files in their latest version and are not additionally attached to emails.
- In online meetings, opt for voice connections only if appropriate.
- Print documentation only if necessary.



*Despite that, the partners have different structural/organisational possibilities to implement measures beyond this. Some examples are detailed below.*

## LYIT

**LYIT**, have a number of different activities ongoing in relation to environmental activities. Some examples include the establishment of the Green Campus Committee which look to engage with An Taisce, Letterkenny Tidy Towns and the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) on Green Campus and sustainability related activities and the National Transport Authority to promote sustainable travel. It also continues to raise awareness of sustainability on campus through events. LYIT also engages in energy management activities whereby it monitors and reports to SEAI on energy performance and works to achieve targets of reduced energy usage.

## TVW

**TVW**, for example, obtains green electricity from the regional energy supplier, which, as a municipal company, also makes an important contribution and implements numerous social projects regionally. Furthermore, TVW compensates not only for business trips but also for its entire annual CO2 footprint. Even though TVW cannot be a formal member due to the size of the company, the company is also committed to the ten basic principles of the UN Global Compact and has publicly anchored this in its company vision.




## AKEP


**AKEP** employ the following activities:




Limit the printing of paper



Use public transportation and bicycle when possible



Carry out teleworking 3-4 days per week  
Recycle



Urban gardening for collecting herbs on the rooftop of our building



Use of LED lights



Use of A/C for heating and cooling/ no diesel use

## MMS

An example of our Green approach - Environmental Impact and Ethical and Organic Sourcing. We are increasingly aware of the impact that many products and supply chains have on the environment. In addition to sourcing organic materials and products, we make a conscious effort to recycle and take steps to use recycled packaging. We purchase recycled office supplies such as paper, napkins, recycled soft furnishings and other materials. We make sure that we are sourcing where we can ethically and socially responsibly by making sure all our products and services are either environmentally friendly or give back to the community in some way. We purchase locally and give business such as event bookings, catering contracts and meeting room bookings where we can locally. Our food sources are ethically produced, and short supply chain focused and we only purchase fair trade products. We purchase locally source food when possible and eat in restaurants that prioritise local food.

## EUEI

Our offices are located in a modern new build with the highest levels of insulation and efficient heating, powered by on-site solar energy panels. Resource use is kept to an absolute minimum with no photocopier, use of recycled printer and toner for printing and a limit of 1 ream of paper per month strongly encourages judicious printing and maximises paper reuse.

For local and international travel, use of public transport is prioritised. We endeavour to minimise international travel as part of our project delivery and are trialling a unique "one meeting" project approach, which if successful will be rolled out on a widescale basis.

We are working towards being carbon neutral in our website servers. Our main data centre is iomart.com in London and they are not Carbon Neutral but they do have a strong environmental policy as a stock market listed company. They have hot/cold aisles in the data centre so hot air from the servers is recycled to heat offices in winter and help extract hot air to save on cooling in summer.

Servers in our fleet are all less than 2 years old so have power supplies that are intelligent and ramp up power when needed and ramp down to minimum when not needed.

Our 3 month roadmap for our new local data centre has us installing solar panels on the roof so we can have 6 months of day running from the panels (late spring, all summer and early Autumn) and we enhancing our UPS batteries to charge from the excess power from the cells to give overnight runtime from stored solar energy.

As an organisation, we calculate our carbon footprint using Leading Online Carbon Calculation Tools to measure our Greenhouse Gas emissions and are implementing a variety of measures to offset this at 110% by investing in high quality international carbon reduction projects including:

# ANCES

Some of the green activities that ANCES carries out or has carried out are:



Changing taps to achieve greater water savings.



Installation of photovoltaic panels on the entire roof of the building to achieve self-sufficiency and energy savings.



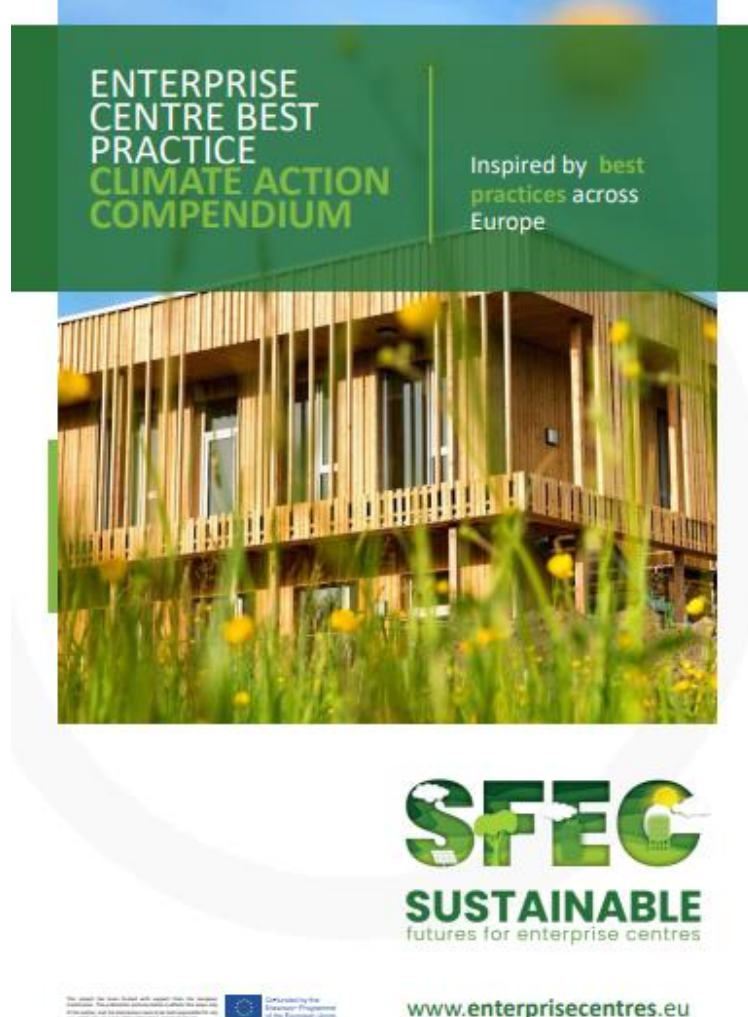
Installation of an electric vehicle car sharing service for employees and surrounding companies, thus reducing CO2 emissions.



Replacement of the luminaires with more efficient ones to achieve greater energy savings.



ANCES participates in a project about green activities, the SFEC Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres project. The SFEC project will work to:



[www.enterprisecentres.eu](http://www.enterprisecentres.eu)

01

Identify best practices that enterprise centres can replicate to reduce their carbon footprint, improve their services/supports and future proof their infrastructures

02

Guide enterprise centre leaders through strategic sustainability planning which will bring sustainable practices and ideas to fruition via concrete actions

03

Empower enterprise centre leaders to become Sustainability Educators and Agents of Change capable of teaching and training SME and start up clients about the principles of sustainability and green business

04

Develop a self-learning sustainability and climate-action online course for Enterprise Centres tenants and wider SME's to enable them to operate in an environmentally and socially responsible manner and align their sustainability goals with those of the enterprise centres where they are base.

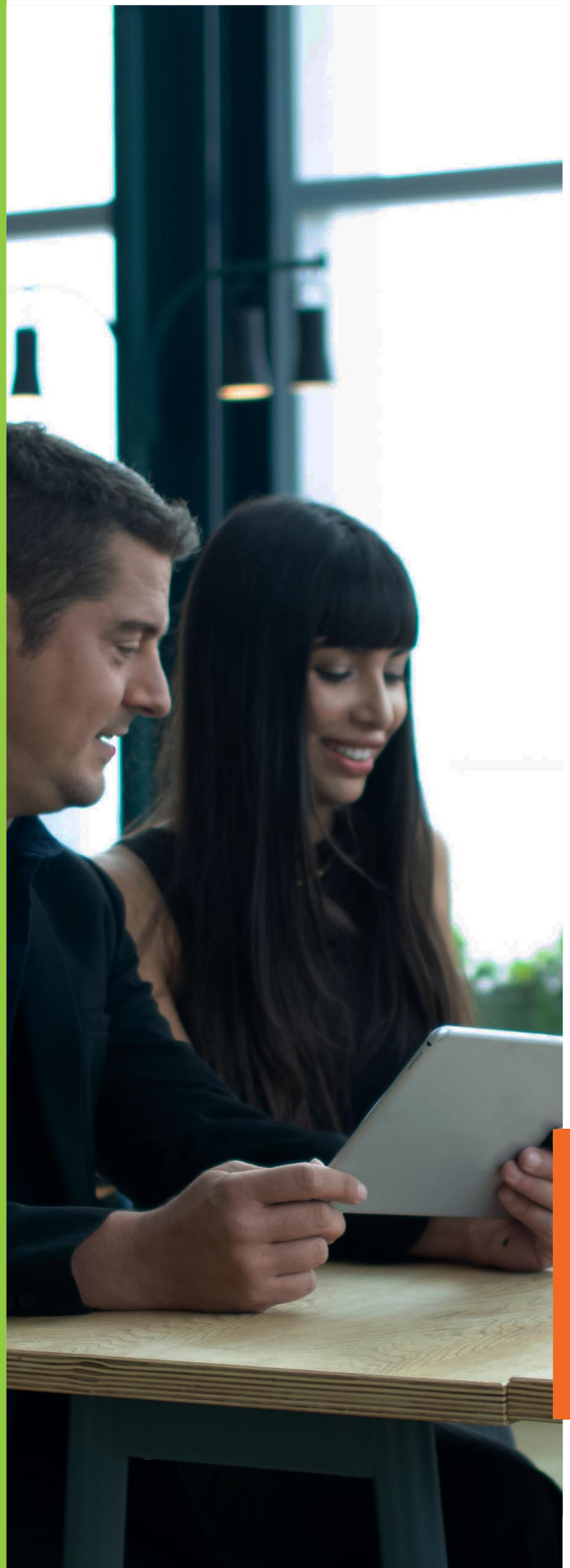
## WP2: TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETINGS

*The minimum number of physical transnational meetings were decided at an early stage of the project development to reduce the Carbon Footprint.*

The timing of meetings were selected to coincide with the key stages of the project outputs so that any physical meetings that were held would be productive.

The impacts of COVID19 have also resulted in the possibility that physical transnational meetings may not proceed. In these scenarios where transnational meetings will be held virtually, it will be important to ensure that they are conducted as resource-efficient way as possible. Any changes to the meeting schedule that may result due to COVID19 will aim to ensure that rescheduled physical meetings are highly productive.

If the respective structures and administrative requirements allow it, the partners also compensate for their travel.



# WP3: QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND IMPACT EVALUATION

*The SECure quality management and impact approach is integral to the effective progression of the project as well as ensuring that there is no waste of resources and that maximum project impact can be achieved.*

Some key objectives of the Quality Management and Impact Evaluation:



Robust monitoring is necessary to keep the project on track and ensure that the IOs, and the individual components within them, are fulfilling quality expectations.



To observe and track progress (summative) but will also facilitate direct participation by end users to determine if quality is being achieved from their perspective (participative) and enable a methodical review and learning among partners to constantly improve their working processes, experiences and capitalise on new opportunities (formative).

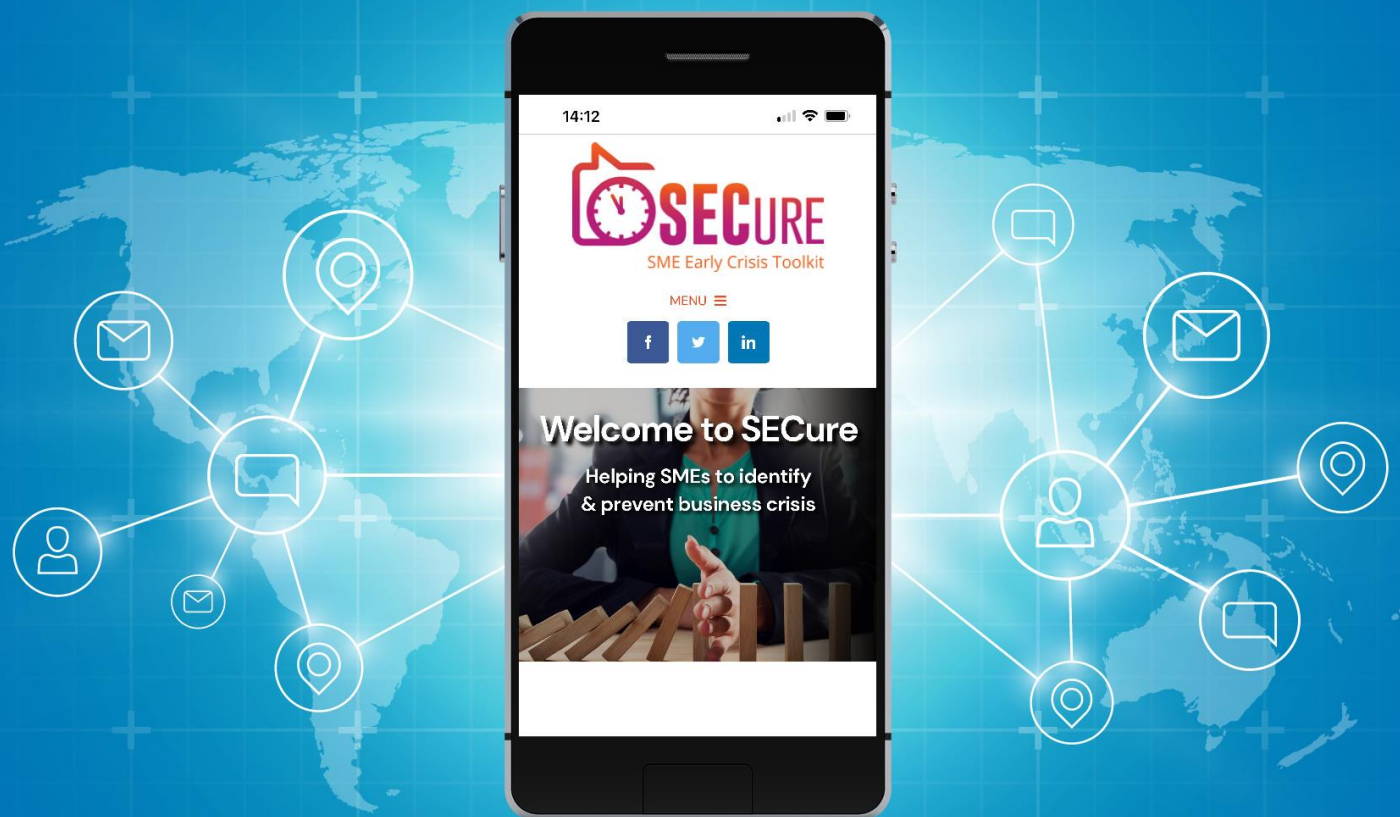


# WP4: DISSEMINATION

*Project communication and dissemination of all results will be conducted in as inclusive a manner as possible.*

The choice of language and tone used in all project documentation, the project website, social media accounts and final outputs will take into consideration the diversity of the target audience across all countries and aim to be as inclusive as possible.

All communication with relevant stakeholders will be conducted with cooperation and knowledge exchange at its core and will look to encourage good outreach and long-lasting engagement.



## WP5: SUSTAINABILITY AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

*Within the project, we strive for sustainability on two different levels.*

On the one hand, we want to ensure that the resources developed are used as widely and permanently as possible by our target groups and that we can thus achieve the most far-reaching and sustainable impact possible. We ensure this through our quality strategy and our target group-oriented communication. Also, we are committed to make the developed resources freely accessible via the project homepage for at least three years after the funding phase.

In addition, the SECure project website is hosted by a provider that guarantees CO<sub>2</sub> neutral web hosting.



## IO1 INTERNATIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

**500** organizations receive the Framework through direct distribution and online downloads and of these we expect **90%** to experience a change in their understanding early warning indicators and the importance of early warning systems in SMEs.

**IO1** is a central component of our impact model. We generate Impact already during the creation of the study by involving central target groups directly in the creation process. We confront these target groups with innovative questions and thought-provoking impulses even before the first output has been completed, thus creating a changed perception of the topic. Once finished, we expect the output to have the following (measurable) impact: 500 organizations receive the Framework through direct distribution and online downloads and of these we expect 90% to experience a change in their understanding early warning indicators and the importance of early warning systems in SMEs. All target groups will have more up-to-date knowledge and Providers will update their curricular provision. As a result, enterprise VET will offer more relevant, practical skills training for businesses in the face of uncertain and turbulent business environments and will better fulfil their mission of providing education suited to real world needs. As a key IO, therefore, it lays strong foundations for the rest of the project. IO1 is a central component of our impact model. We generate Impact already during the creation of the study by involving central target groups directly in the creation process. We confront these target groups with innovative questions and thought-provoking impulses even before the first output has been completed, thus creating a changed perception of the topic.

Direct impact will first be realized on local/ regional level – long term impact will also affect national and EU-level.

## IO2 CURRICULUM AND VET TRAINING PACKAGE

**IO2** generates direct impact through its use by SMEs and future entrepreneurs, who will be able to better identify and overcome existing crises, thereby increasing the resilience of their businesses and the jobs they provide. In the medium term, a multiplier effect is created by VET professionals, consultants, teachers, and trainers incorporating the resources into their services - generating a sustainable effect on the resilience of the European economy.



## IO3 INTERACTIVE CRISIS ANALYSIS AND SOLUTION TOOLKIT

**IO3** generates a direct impact on the users of the Web-APP. These can be either directly the owners/managers of SMEs, or VET professionals, business consultants or other SME support structures who integrate the resource into their service offerings and share the tool with their customers. As a result, SMEs will be able to identify and overcome existing or emerging business crises before they cause irreversible consequences. In this way, I-EAS-IT makes an important contribution to securing companies and the jobs associated with them.

More indirect, but no less significant, impact occurs at regional, national and EU level. By increasing the crisis resilience of individual SMEs, an important effect is simultaneously created both on the regional economy and with regard to networked supply chains within the European Union. Experience shows that crises of individual companies can quickly lead to domino effects within supply and value chains. Overall, I-EAS-IT thus contributes to the crisis resilience of the European economy.

## IO4 KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM AND OERs

The platform developed from **IO4** will impact on all stakeholder groups, including VET-Professionals, learners, businesses, and policy makers to maximise impact beyond project participants. The impact on learners who will not only benefit from the OERs and learning modules but also to provide significantly more opportunities to engage with peers to develop cross-regional communities of learning and access a wider range of learning materials, advice and mentoring from experts across the sector.

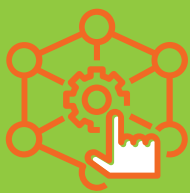
Thus, the platform will significantly enrich the learning experience of all participants.

The impact on policy makers is also important, and the platform provides an opportunity to access and influence policy makers at regional, national, and international levels and beyond the immediate reach of the project. Sustaining the longevity of the platform beyond the lifespan of the project will also increase the enduring impact of project results and outcomes.

## 04 SUMMARY

The project hopes to make a meaningful impact on Entrepreneurs and SMEs both the aim of this project is to not only help current SMEs but also better inform future entrepreneurs and startups as they begin their journey. And ultimately achieve a long-lasting, sustainable impact.

In summary, the SECure project will:



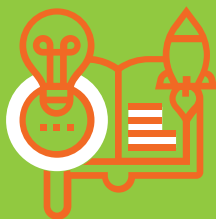
enable SME owner/manager to identify and analyse Early-Warning- Indicators for business crisis and to develop individual suitable measures to prevent / overcome the crisis



professionalise VET and other support structures and increase the impact of their services



increase the crisis resilience of start-ups by increasing the awareness for early-warning signals



provide policy makers with an up-to-date in-depth knowledge of early crisis indicators suitable to be adapted into future policies

# FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY

*If you would like to learn more about the SECure project, please get in touch with us:*



[secure.erasmusproject@gmail.com](mailto:secure.erasmusproject@gmail.com)



[www.smecrisistoolkit.eu](http://www.smecrisistoolkit.eu)



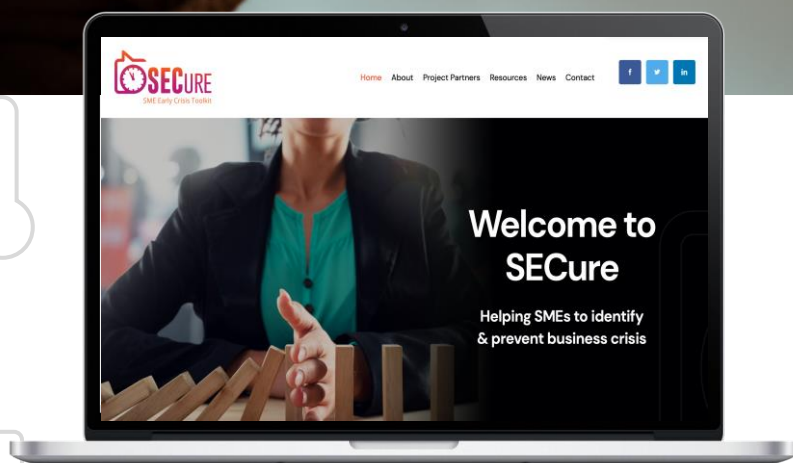
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