

## **Innovating SME Growth: The SMERF Self-Assessment Tool**

### ***Audit tools for assessing companies' level of advancement in 4 pillars***

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing the operational efficiency, innovation capability, and overall competitiveness of SMEs, the SMERF project introduces the SMERF Self-Assessment Tool. This comprehensive analysis and support system is underscoring the vital role of self-assessment tools in driving organizational change and fostering a culture of innovation within the industrial sector.

The SMERF Self-Assessment Tool is designed to overcome the limitations of existing tools by providing a more integrated and user-centric experience. It evaluates companies across four pillars—innovation culture, digital manufacturing, open innovation and sharing economy, green & circular economy, and sustainability. The SMERF tool is equipped with a system, which autonomously generates concrete, actionable strategies, guiding SMEs towards readiness for future challenges and opportunities.

This tool represents a significant advancement in the realm of self-assessment instruments, setting a new standard for aiding SMEs in navigating today's complex business environment. With its focus on continuous evolution and practical recommendations, the SMERF Self-Assessment Tool not only addresses immediate operational needs but also supports long-term growth and capacity for innovation. It is structured into two main parts: an initial set of 40 questions for a broad assessment and a second set of 80 detailed questions for in-depth analysis across the four pillars.

By integrating the strengths of existing tools and addressing their gaps, the SMERF project's offering stands as a transformative solution for SMEs. The continuously evolving knowledge database further ensures that SMEs have access to the latest best practices and success stories, making the SMERF tool an indispensable resource for any SME aiming to enhance its competitiveness in the modern market.