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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Västra Götaland

Case study, part of ESPON project "*Small and Medium Sized
Enterprises in European Regions and Cities*"

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The region of Västra Götaland

- 49 municipalities, 1,6 million people
- Shift in the region's business structure
- Top sectors: Transport, Life science & ICT
- SMEs stand for most of the employment growth
- Good economic performance



Policy strategies and support instruments

- Policy strategies:
 - Regional growth and development strategies
 - New action plan on entrepreneurship and start-ups
 - "The Digital Agenda"
 - Structural change of the health care system
- Support instruments:
 - Consultation services, support in recruitment processes, financial loans, export centre for internationalisation
 - Science parks, open innovation networks, incubators etc.
 - University support programs

Key drivers and barriers for development

- Drivers:
 - Digitalisation and high demand for IT services
 - Good infrastructure for innovation and knowledge sharing
 - Educational system
- Barriers:
 - Labour market: skill supply and matching problems
 - SMEs lack resources to participate in support programs
 - (Legislative framework)

Policy recommendations

- More diverse support systems
- Shorter program periods, easier application and administrative processes
- Strengthen public and private interaction in “new areas”
- Make public procurement processes more accessible

// Thank you

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This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu/xxx