



#### SBA CO-ORDINATORS MEETING



# Small Business Act Assessment for the Western Balkans & Turkey 2016-2019

Launch of the Assessment

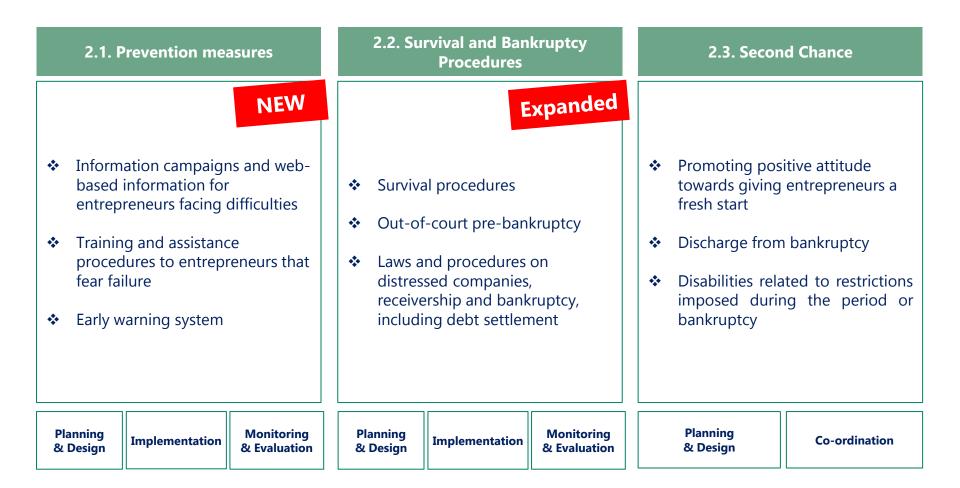
Presentation of the final assessment frameworks

OECD Conference Centre CC 12, Paris 13 September 2017 09:30 – 16:00

*Ensure that honest entrepreneurs who have faced bankruptcy quickly get a second chance* 

- **Insolvency laws are crucial for both entrepreneurs and lenders,** both of whom require legal recourses when an insolvent and indebted enterprise is no longer economically viable.
- In the WBT region Policy makers should work to **ensure firms can reorganise and potentially restart**, and to give creditors legal support to claim debt repayments and thus feel secure in future lending.
- Economies should work to put **supporting institutions/mechanisms in place** such as early warning systems; out-of-court settlement, efficient court procedures and post-bankruptcy provisions such as discharge and the promotion of second chances

### Dimension 2: Bankruptcy & Second Chance Structure: OLD vs. NEW



## Dimension 2: Bankruptcy & Second Chance Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### Changes in Scope

- Questionnaire has been updated and expanded to better catch new practices and changes in bankruptcy and second chance area:
  - A new sub dimension was created to asses **preventive measures** that are in place in order to support entrepreneurs that fear a failure;

Are there any official self-tests websites available for entrepreneurs before starting a business (Self-assessment questionnaires for entrepr

Does the government or any public or private institution provide any informational campaigns on available government supports for entreprer

Are there any websites/call centers providing answers to entrepreneurs that fear a failure ?

Are there any training courses for entrepreneurs that fear a failure ?

Are there any support services offered by public agencies to avoid financial distress or bankruptcy?

Are early-warning systems in place to identify financially distressed companies before filing for bankruptcy?

If yes The early warning system is based on which variables?

Please enumerate 5 most important early-warning signals detected

Is there any scheme which provides a protection from creditors and allows time for restructuring ?

TIC BLOCK 2: PERFORMANCE

What is the business creation rate in the last 5 years? Please give the number of creation per year

What is the number of view of self-tests websites ?

What is the coverage rate of questions asked by entrepreneurs that fear a failure?

What is the recovery rate of distressed companies after the prevention phase

## **Dimension 2: Bankruptcy & Second Chance Main changes introduced and the rationale**

#### Changes in Scope

- Questionnaire has been updated and expanded to better catch new practices and changes in bankruptcy and second chance area:
  - More emphasis has been placed to out-of-court settlement and discharge procedures under Bankruptcy procedures sub-dimension

Are th	ere free or sponsored consulting advice ?
Are th	ere free or sponsored legal and accounting services?
Based	I on the rule of Law, are out-of-court settlements available as a less expensive alternative to filing for bankruptcy?
lf yes	Are the courts involved in out-of-court settlements procedures (e.g. via appointing a mediator to guide the settlement procedure
	If a recovery plan has to be written, are there advisers or independent legal experts advising about the feasibility of the plan
Do you	u have formal procedures for discharge from bankruptcy?
lf yes	Does the legislation or equivalent specify a maximum time for full discharge?
	If a maximum time for full discharge is specified, is it within a maximum of 3 years after final court decision?
	Is removal from bankruptcy register automatic after full discharge?
	Is removal from national credit black list automatic after full discharge?



### Dimension 3: Institutional and regulatory framework for SME policy making Introduction

### Design rules according to the "Think Small First" principle:

"Take into account SMEs' characteristics when designing legislation, and simplify the existing regulatory environment."

- Effective institutional and regulatory frameworks are the cornerstone of all other SME support initiatives
- Comprehensive and coherent policy and institutional framework is needed to ensure the laws are SME friendly and that public initiatives effectively address SME needs
- In the WBT region: increasingly sophisticated SME policy development, with some persisting challenges
  - Focus shifted from institutional building to tracking policy implementation and monitoring
  - Limited SME and entrepreneurship statistics
  - More explicit measures needed to tackle the informal economy

## Dimension 3: Institutional and regulatory framework for SME policy making Structure: OLD vs. NEW

3.1. Institutional f		lative simplific tory impact ar		3.3. Public	c-Private con	sultations	
<ul> <li>SME definition</li> <li>Availability of statis</li> <li>Inter-governmenta ordination in SME p</li> <li>SME development</li> <li>SME policy in agency or equivale</li> <li>Measures to tackle economy</li> </ul>	co- policy making strategy plementation nt	regulat	tive simplificatio cory guillotine tory impact ass		<ul> <li>Frequer</li> </ul>	ncy, transparer y of public-pr	
Planning & Design Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design	Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	Frequency and transparency	Private sector involvement	Monitoring & Evaluation

## Dimension 3: Institutional and regulatory framework for SME policy making Main changes introduced and the rationale

### Changes in Scope

- Questionnaire has been slightly updated and expanded to better grasp the changes that the economies underwent since the last assessment
  - ✓ Accent has been put on implementation and monitoring & evaluation

	Are there any monitoring mechanisms in place for the implementation of the SME strategy?						
	Are there any monitoring mechanisms in place for the implementation agency/body?						
	Are there any monitoring mechanisms in place for the programmes for transition from informal to formal sector?						
	Is there an independent evaluation of the programmes (for transition from informal to formal sector) that were put in place?						
	Does the implementation body regularly produce a publicly available report?						
	Is information about the beneficiaries of SME support services offered by the implementation body open to the public?						
	Have any adjustments been made based on the results of the monitoring and evaluation?						
	Is the government collecting the following data on SMEs:						
	Number of SMEs						
	Employment by SMEs						
	Value added by SMEs to the GDP						
	Other (please specify in the Country Comments column)						
DENL							
	Does your current SME strategy follow on from a previous one? When did the previous strategy come to an end?						
	Have there been any changes in the definition of SMEs since the last assessment? If yes, please specify.						
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	Have there been any changes in the definition of SMEs since the last assessment? If yes, please specify. Has the strategy been supported by external advice (e.g. donor agency)? Are the measures under SME strategy being financed by donor funds?						
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	Have there been any changes in the definition of SMEs since the last assessment? If yes, please specify. Has the strategy been supported by external advice (e.g. donor agency)? Are the measures under SME strategy being financed by donor funds? What is the timeframe of your SME strategy? What are the actions specified in the strategy?						

## Dimension 3: Institutional and regulatory framework for SME policy making Main changes introduced and the rationale

### Changes in Scope

More emphasis has been placed on **informal economy** under *Institutional framework* sub-dimension

Thematic Blocks						
Has an inter-ministerial consultation process taken place in developing of the strategy?						
Has the private sector been consulted in the developing of the strategy?						
Have the other relevant stakeholders (e.g. civil society, regular citizens etc.) been consulted in the developing of the strategy?						
Did the strategy include specific strategies for certain industries / sectors? If yes, please specify for which ones in the Country comments column.						
What is the share of businesses operating in the informal sector?						
is there a background analysis done regarding the effect of the informal sector to the economy?						
Is there a background analysis done regarding the effect of the informal sector to the economy?						
Does the SME strategy address the informal economy (i.e. are there specific targets to encourage SMEs transition to the formal sector)	)?					
If yes, what is the present status of the plan? (please choose only one)						
Does a leading SME policy implementation body or equivalent exist?						
boos a reading one pointy implementation body of equivalent exist.						
If yes Does the SME policy implementation body have operational autonomy?						
Are other ministries represented on the governance board or equivalent of the implementation body?						
Is the private sector represented on the governance board or equivalent of the implementation body?						
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## **Dimension 4: Operational environment for SMEs Introduction**

### Make public administrations responsive to SMEs' needs

"Lengthy and costly administrative procedures can be a major constraint on doing business and their impact is most heavily felt by micro and small-sized enterprises."

- Before an entrepreneur or a company can start operating they normally need to register with the public authorities. Lengthy and costly registration procedures might be a major business constraint for SMEs
- Simplifying the operational environment and reducing the administrative burden on SMEs may encourage entrepreneurial activity
- By adopting ICT solutions, governments can cut transaction costs for entrepreneurs and improve the efficiency of public administration, and reduce informal economy as well as corruption
- SMEs often face higher tax compliance costs, in relative terms due to their smaller size, therefore **special provisions and simplified measures might reduce tax compliance costs** and disproportionate impact on SMEs.

## Dimension 4: Operational environment for SMEs Structure: OLD vs. NEW

4.1. Digital government for SMEs	4.2. Company registration	4.3. Business licensing	4.4. Tax compliance procedures for SMEs		
<ul> <li>Online ling of tax returns and social</li> <li>Security returns</li> <li>Extension to other services (e.g. e-pensions, e-procurement, e-cadastre, etc.)</li> <li>Data exchange system within the public sector</li> <li>Electronic signature (or equivalent)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>One-stop-shop company registration</li> <li>Online registration</li> <li>Administrative identification numbers in dealing with the public administration</li> <li>Silence-is-consent principle</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Written assessment and licensing guidelines</li> <li>Licensing fees complying with the</li> <li>Cost-recovery principle</li> <li>Central co-ordination body</li> <li>Information collected for a license shared with other authorities</li> <li>Training and public awareness campaigns on licensing transparency and accountability in licensing procedures</li> <li>Review and monitoring of licensing procedures</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presumptive tax regime for micro businesses</li> <li>Cash accounting for income tax purposes</li> <li>Tax filing procedures for small businesses</li> <li>VAT registration/collection threshold</li> </ul>		
Planning & Design Implementation & Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design Implementation & Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design Implementation & Monitoring & Evaluation		

OECD South East Europe Regional Programme

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## Dimension 4: Operational environment for SMEs Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### Changes in Scope

- Questionnaire has been expanded to better capture more advanced aspects compare to the previous assessment:
  - The sub-dimension **on e-government** was completely revised according to the **OECD Recommendation of the Council on Digital Government Strategies**;

Does your government have a strategy/policy/plan for e-government or digital government?

If yes	Does this strategy/policy plan mention SMEs as a specific target group?			
	Which of the following element(s) is/are identified in the strategy/policy plan:			
	Digital services for the filing of tax returns			
	Digital services for the filing of social security returns			
	Digital services for pensions			
	Digital services related to the Cadastre			
	The reporting of enterprise statistics through digital channels			
	Awareness raising on digital services for SMEs			
	Canacitation of SMEs in the use of digital services			

Once-only principle

#### • New questions have been added on the **monitoring and evaluation mechanisms**

THEMATIC BLOCK 3: MONITORING & EVALUATION

Are there monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place for the company registration?

If yes have adjustments been made based on the results?

Is there a specific agency that monitors the implementation and the process of registration?

Is performance at local level monitored and made public?



### Dimension 4: Operational environment for SMEs Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### Changes in Scope

- \* A new sub-dimension which focuses on the availability of SME-specific special tax compliance schemes has been added:
  - Based on OECD tax experts recommendation, the new sub-dimension "Tax compliance procedures for SMEs" will most likely not be scored but it will contribute to qualitative analysis of available SME-specific tax compliance schemes

THEMATIC BLOCK 1a: INCOME TAX	
loes your country have a presumptive tax regime for micro businesses?	
f yes, please specify how the system works	
Does your country allow small businesses to use cash accounting for income tax purposes?	
boes your country allow small businesses to use cash accounting for income tax purposes :	
f yes, please specify how the system works	
Is there any threshold used to determine eligibility for cash accounting 2 Please specify	
Does your country have additional simplified accounting rules for small businesses (presisely: simplified rules for the calculation of inventory, bad debts and long-term contract	ts,
relaxation of the requirement to keep financial accounting books for tax purposes and simplified accounting)?	
If yes, please specify rules	
Does your country have simpler tax filing procedures for small businesses?	
If yes, please specify procedures	
THEMATIC BLOCK 1b: VAT	
poes your country have a VAT registration/collection threshold under which small businesses are not obliged to register for and remit VAT?	
f yes, what is the threshold?	
Does your country foresee simplified schemes for calculating VAT liability, including VAT presumptive tax schemes or simplified VAT input tax credit calculation schemes?	
f ves, please specify	
Does your country allow small businesses to use cash accounting for VAT purposes?	
,	
f yes, please specify rules	
Does your country foresee simplified return filing and payment simplification schemes ?	
fves please describe	
THEMATIC BLOCK 1c: Other taxes	-
Does your country have any tax incentives scheme for SMEs ?	
If yes, please explain the scheme	
Does you country have any simplification measures for other taxes ?	
If yes, please describe which "other tax"and describe the measure	

### Dimension 5a: Support services SMEs and start-ups Introduction

### Adapt public policy tools to SME needs:

Support SMEs to overcome market imperfections which prevent them from accessing particular markets and developing their skills

- Due to high costs and complexity, **SMEs are often not able to enhance their capacity** and to develop specific skills.
- The support **services required by SMEs vary** depending on the specific type of activity of the business and stage of development.
- In the WBT region: **More systematic approach** to provision of support services for SMEs is needed
  - Monitoring and evaluation of existing support schemes is limited
  - Markets for private support services in the Western Balkans remain underdeveloped

### Dimension 5a: Support services SMEs and start-ups Structure: OLD vs. NEW

<del>5</del> <b>a</b> . 1 51vi	E-Busines	s development serv the government	Expanded		nt initiatives aiming nent of private BSS	
<ul> <li>Desi</li> <li>Scop</li> <li>Tailo ups,</li> <li>Infor</li> </ul>	gn of BSS e of provi red BSS fo young ent	S in policy framewor provided by governi ded BSS (e.g. trainin or different SME seg trepreneurs) support (e.g. we	ment gs, counseling)	<ul> <li>Incentives for financing sche</li> </ul>	olicy framework SMEs to use priv mes, vouchers) on supply of priva	
Plan & De		Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design	Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation

### Dimension 5a: Support services SMEs and start-ups Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### Changes in Scope

\* Updated assessment framework focuses more on implementation and monitoring of support services for SMEs.

TIC BLOCK 2: IMPLEMENTATION				
Does the government conduct business support programmes for SMEs?				
Has a budget been mobilised for business support programmes for SMEs?				
Are any of the following types of business support services being offered by the government?				
General information				
Trainings				
Mentoring and consulting				
Physical infrastructure				
Are there any tailored business support programmes for start-ups?				
Are there any tailored business support programmes for female entrepreneurs?				
Are there any tailored business support programmes for young entrepreneurs?				
Is the government also providing business support services for SMEs via private sector service providers?				
If yes are these services co-financed?				
If yes does this take place through a voucher scheme or direct contribution				

#### How many entrepreneurs/SMEs received support services provided by the government in a year (latest available)

Type of BSS		Number of entrepreneurs/ SMEs
	Bookkeeping and accounting	
	Business plans	
	Financial planning and credit	
8	orientation	
	Leadership	
	ICT training	
	Resource efficiency	
	Presentation, sales and	
	marketing	
	Other	
and ng	Sales and marketing	
	Productions and ICT	
lti	Sales and marketing Productions and ICT HR management	

## **Dimension 5b: Public Procurement Introduction**

### <u>Adapt public policy tools to SMEs' needs: facilitate SMEs'</u> participation in public procurement:

"Make use of the Code of Best Practice providing guidance to contracting authorities on how they may apply the EC public procurement framework in a way that facilitates SMEs' participation in public procurement procedures."

- SMEs face obstacles in public procurement markets, often simply because they are not aware of opportunities and/or are discouraged by procedures or because public authorities may find it more comfortable to award contracts to large enterprises with a track record rather than to young innovative companies.
- **Policy efforts are needed** to reduce bureaucracy, improve transparency, facilitate access to information on procurement opportunities and ensure a level playing field for SMEs.
- In the WBT region: **some progress, but still further efforts are needed** 
  - to ensure that qualification levels and financial requirements for SMEs are proportionate
  - to reduce administrative burden
  - to take full advantage of e-procurement OECD South East Europe Regional Programme

## **Dimension 5b: Public Procurement Structure: OLD vs. NEW**

Responsible Institution: SIGMA (OECD)

#### **5b. Public procurement**



### Changes in Scope

- The questionnaire has evolved to capture more information concerning various relevant issues related to participation of SMEs in public procurement procedures:
  - ✓ Introduction of questions on the strategy and policy framework on SME support in public procurement

EMATIC BLOCK 1: POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK here an adopted multi-year strategy that defines objectives of support to SMEs in the public procurement system?	
If yes, has the private sector been consulted in the development the strategy?	
If yes, does the strategy include the following issues? encouraging the division of public contracts into lots encouraging joint bidding simplifying/reducing the documentation requirements to participate in a tender special or focused support to SMEs	
the foreign companies allowed to participate in public procurement procedures on equal terms with domestic bidders?	
es the public procurement legislation allow contracting authorities to divide public procurement contracts into lots?	

### Changes in Scope

- \* A few questions have been broken down further to obtain more information concerning the rules and practice on:
  - Division of contracts into lots
  - Participation of groups of economic operators (consortia) and potential limitations
  - Requirements concerning tender securities/guarantees, maximum amounts, forms, conditions of return or forfeit
  - Subcontracting and its potential limitations
- \* Questions related to limitations concerning participation of foreign companies in public procurement procedures have been reformulated

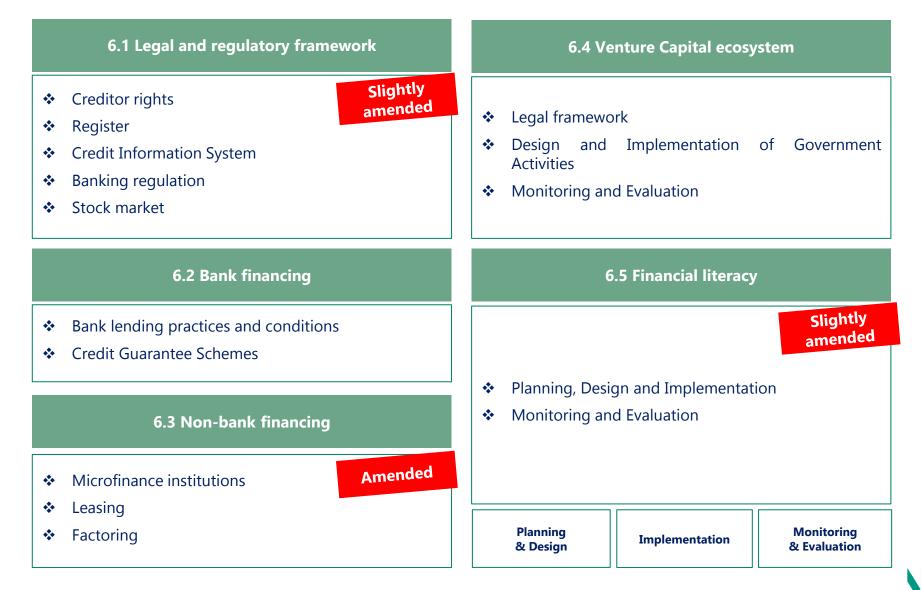
## Dimension 6: Access to finance for SMEs Introduction

### Enable SMEs to turn environmental challenges into opportunities:

"Facilitate SMEs' access to finance, in particular to risk capital, micro-credit and mezzanine finance and develop a legal and business environment supportive to timely payment in commercial transactions."

- Access to finance can be important source to support SMEs to grow and expand, adopt new technologies or innovate
- It presents a key challenge for SME development (SMEs report having difficulties in enterprise surveys)
- Important to take into account both the supply and the demand side:
  - Appropriate legal and policy framework can facilitate efficient provision of financing through private-sector
  - Provision of information and training to SMEs can help entrepreneurs better understand different financial instruments available (raise awareness) and improve business planning to increase bankability

## **Dimension 6: Access to finance for SMEs Structure: Largely unchanged**



## Dimension 6: Access to finance for SMEs Main changes introduced and the rationale

### Changes in scope and depth

- \* Questionnaire has evolved to capture more detailed aspects of *Non-bank financing* instruments to better reflect the extent of the legal framework required to function successfully
  - Introduction of additional questions on *Leasing* (definition, rules for repossession, lessor's rights)
  - ✓ Introduction of additional questions on *Factoring* (definition, scope of coverage, inclusion of electronic means)
  - ✓ Inclusion of statistics for *Leasing* and *Factoring* to align with approach for bank financing
- Expansion of Legal and regulatory framework and Financial literacy dimensions to capture important, more advanced aspects
  - Question on acceptance of movable collateral added to thematic block "*Register*" within *Legal and regulatory framework*
  - Question on financial education in secondary school curriculum added to thematic block "*Planning, Design and Implementation*" within *Financial literacy*.

## Dimension 7: Standards and technical regulations Introduction

### <u>Help SMEs to benefit more from the opportunities offered by the</u> <u>Single Market (SBA Principle 7)</u>

"Ensure that SMEs benefit from existing market opening policies"

- **Technical barriers to trade** represent one of the most important obstacles to the liberalisation of trade between the European Union and the EU pre-accession countries.
- SMEs face unique barriers to benefit from standards and technical regulations mostly because they lack strategic resources.
- In the WBT region: progress was made in adopting European standards, and aligning legislation with EU acquis:
  - Measures that specifically target the needs of SMEs when exporting to the EU market are needed.
  - Institutions may lack capacity to implement legislation that are alined with the EU acquis.

## Dimension 7: Standards and technical regulations Structure: OLD vs. NEW

For the first time in the 2017-2019 cycle, Dimension 7 is within the OECD's scope of analysis.

7.1. Overall Co-ordination and	7.2. Harmonisation with the EU	7.3. SMEs Access to		
General Measures	Acquis	Standardisation		
<ul> <li>Policy Framework</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Technical Regulation</li> <li>Standardisation</li> <li>Accreditation</li> <li>Conformity Assessment</li> <li>Metrology</li> <li>Market Surveillance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Awareness Raising and Information</li> <li>SMEs Participation in Developing Standards</li> <li>Financial Support to SMEs</li> </ul>		

## Dimension 7: Standards and technical regulations Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### <u>Scope</u>

- A set of questions that aim to assess SMEs access to standardisation have been added. More specifically, they will give insight on the following:
  - i) To what extent SMEs are **informed about the standards** and ways to practically implement them;

IATIC BLOCK 1: AWARENESS RAISING AND INFORMATION

Is there a webpage (or other online tools) in local language where SMEs could find information on standards applicable to products in various sectors?

If yes Does this webpage provide the opportunity to search for European and international standards in the local language as well?

Do forums exist for regular dialogue between national standards organisations (NSO) and business associations representing SMEs allowing for provision of up-to-

Do standardisation bodies and business assocations have any measures in place to increase SMEs awareness of standards?

If yes Do business associations provide regular information (e.g. newsletters) about standards and standardisation activities to their members?

Are any promotional campaigns on standards (e.g. sectoral roadshows) organised by standards organisations and/or business organisations?

Do any practical guides exist on the benefits of using standards and standardisation activities to their members?

Are any successful case studies on standardisation and its benefits collected and made available to public?

Are there any training events (seminars or workshops) on the implementation of standards organised by standards organisations and/or business associations?



## Dimension 7: Standards and technical regulations Main changes introduced and the rationale

### <u>Scope</u>

• İi) How SMEs are included in the process of **developing standards**;

Do national standards organisations have specific committee or working groups that are dedicated to considering the needs and concerns of SMEs?

Are there measures in place to enhance the participation of SMEs in development of standards?

Is there a mechanism in place which allows SMEs to offer feedback on standards?

Is the involvement of SMEs in standardisation regularly monitored and evaluated?

#### OPEN QUESTIONS:

If specific committee and working groups exist, please provide more information on them - e.g. How often do they meet.

Are there any evidence that the feedback and views of SMEs are taken into account while developing and revising standards? (e.g. Records of public consultations)

## Dimension 7: Standards and technical regulations Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### <u>Scope</u>

iii) What kind of **financial measures** are in place to foster the SMEs engagement and application of standards by SMEs;

THEMATIC BLOCK 3: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SMEs

Are there any financial measures (e.g. subsidies) in place which reduce the cost of acquiring standards for SMEs?

Are there any financial measures in place which reduce the cost of SMEs participation in standardisation?

If yes Do standards organisations and/or business associations provide financial support to SMEs for attendance in technical meetings and seminars? Do the government offer any tax credits related to standardisation?

Are there any financial measures in place which reduce the cost of implementation of standards?

Are the financial measures related to standards provided for SMEs regularly monitored and evaluated?

#### OPEN QUESTIONS:

How many SMEs have annually benefitted from various financial support schemes between 2010-17?

How much annual support has been provided to SMEs between 2010-17?

## Dimension 8b: Innovation Introduction

### <u>Promote the upgrading of skills in SMEs and all forms of</u> <u>innovation (SBA Principle 8)</u>

"Encourage investment in research by SMEs and their participation in R&D support programmes, transnational research, clustering and active intellectual property management by SMEs»

- SMEs have a **lower propensity to innovate** than larger firms. They might initiate innovation activities, but it is difficult for them to carry them through.
- In the WBT region: progress was made in developing policy frameworks, but
  - The **implementation** of innovation policies is often delayed due to the lack of funding and unclear governance structures.
  - Co-operation between academia and private sector needs to be further promoted.
  - Financial instruments responding to the needs of different SMEs (pre-seed, start-ups etc) remain to be underdeveloped.
  - Innovation related infrastructure is improving, yet their sustainability needs to be better addressed.

### Dimension 8b: Innovation Structure: OLD vs. NEW

8b.1. Policy framework for innovation	8b.2. Government institutional support services for innovative SMEs	8b.3. Government financial support for innovative SMEs	8b.4. SME and research institution collaboration and technology transfer			
<ul> <li>Strategic Approach</li> <li>Co-ordination of Innovation Policy</li> <li>Implementation of Innovation Policy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Incubators and Accelerators</li> <li>Technology Extension Services for Established SMEs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Direct Financial Support</li> <li>Indirect Financial Support (Fiscal Support and Demand-side policies)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Innovation Voucher Schemes and Co- operative Grants</li> <li>Institutional Infrastructure for Industry-Academia Co- operation</li> <li>Intellectual Property Rights</li> </ul>			

## Dimension 8b: Innovation Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### <u>Scope</u>

New questions have been added on the following areas:

Availability and scope of technology extension services for established SMEs

THEMATIC BLOCK 2: TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION SERVICES FOR ESTABLISHED SMEs

Do any technology extension services (technology centers or any specialised support programs) exist for established SMEs?

Is there a public financial support/grant scheme to support technology extension services?

Do the technology extension services have a wide regional coverage?

Are there any subsidies/financial support provided to SMEs that want to benefit from technology extension services?

Are the public technology extension services and/or public support to them regularly monitored and evaluated?

Are any impact assessment for public technology extension services and/or public financial support for them conducted?

#### OPEN QUESTIONS:

How many incubators and accelerators exist in the country, and where?

How many of the incubators and accelerators are owned by the public, private sector or civil society?

What is the amount of financial support provided to incubators and accelerators?

What kind of technology extension services exist in the country, and where?

Are these technology extension services offered by the public, private or civil society actors?

What is the amount of financial support provided to technology extension services?

How is information available on incubators, accelerators and technology extension services?

## Dimension 8b: Innovation Main changes introduced and the rationale

#### <u>Scope</u>

- The focus under «SME and research institution collaboration» has been broadened, and in addition to the institutional infrastructure, other aspects are also being considered.
  - Support on the management of IPR for SMEs

#### THEMATIC BLOCK 3: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Is there legislation that regulates the intellectual property rights ownership and royalties split for publicly funded research?

Are there any advisory services for SMEs on intellectual asset management?

Are there links between IP specialist support (National IP Offices) and general innovation support for businesses?

Is there any public support available for patenting and commercialisation of academia-industry activities?

### Innovation Voucher Schemes and Co-operative Grants

THEMATIC BLOCK 1: INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEMES AND CO-OPERATIVE GRANTS

Are there any innovation voucher schemes offered by public institutions for SMEs?

Are there any competitive co-operative grants offered by public institutions for SMEs?

Are innovation voucher schemes and co-operative grants regularly monitored and evaluated?

Are any impact assessment for innovation voucher schemes and co-operative grants conducted?

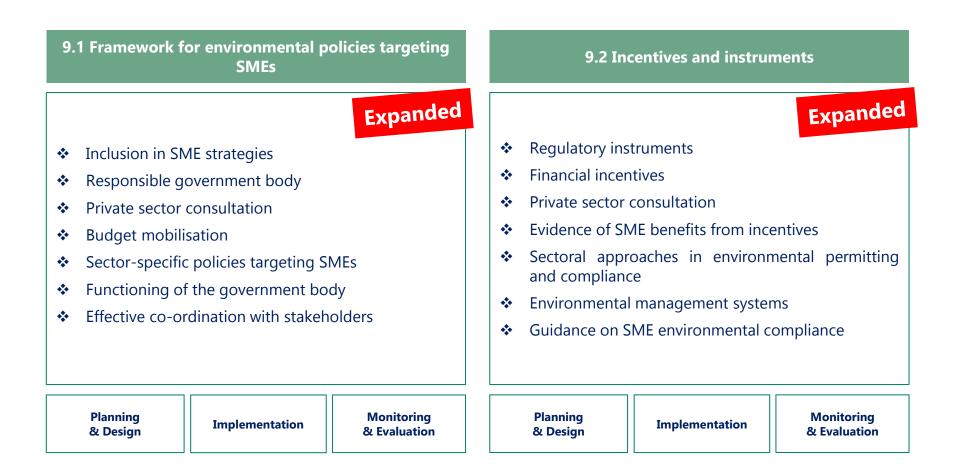
## Dimension 9: SMEs in a green economy Introduction

### Enable SMEs to turn environmental challenges into opportunities:

"Provide more information, expertise and financial incentives for full exploitation of the opportunities for new 'green' markets and increased energy efficiency, partly through the implementation of environmental management systems in SMEs."

- Policy makers increasingly concerned about how to achieve sustained economic growth without harming the environment
- SMEs account for a large proportion of all enterprises within an economy
   --> design polices that help SMEs do the transition towards
   environmentally friendly and sustainable practices
- In the WBT region: disconnection between environmental policies and SME development
  - Lack of information and tools on environmental issues
  - Limited resources to offer financial incentives and a lack of regulatory instruments to help this SME greening transition

### Dimension 9: SMEs in a green economy Structure: OLD vs. NEW



### Changes in Scope

- \* Questionnaire has evolved to capture some new aspects of SME greening that had not been covered in the previous assessment cycle in order to better grasp the actual situation in the area and obtain as much information as possible:
  - ✓ Introduction of questions on *Information-based instruments* (environmental advice and guidance; promotion of greening initiatives for SMEs)

### Changes in Scope

- \* Questionnaire has evolved to capture some new aspects of SME greening that had not been covered in the previous assessment cycle in order to better grasp the actual situation in the area and obtain as much information as possible:
  - ✓ Introduction of questions on *Information-based instruments* (environmental advice and guidance; promotion of greening initiatives for SMEs)

THEMATIC BLOCK 2: IMPLEMENTATION

Do national or local government authorities implement any programmes to raise SMEs' awareness and secure their initial engagement Is there evidence of SMEs benefiting from financial incentives for green practices?

Are sectoral approaches used in environmental permitting and compliance assurance activities?

Does the government body in charge of providing env. guidance provide additional measures (e.g. outreach or training programmes)?

Are there any bodies/authorities advocating the interests of SMEs in the preparation of environmental legislation targeting SMEs?

Are there "awards" or other forms of recognition of performance for green SMEs?

THEMATIC BLOCK 3: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Is there regular monitoring of regulatory instruments?

Is there regular monitoring of financial incentives?

Is there independent review of regulatory instruments and financial incentives?

Does the government use any mechanism to receive feedback from SMEs on incentives?

### Changes in Scope

- ✓ Encompassing broader range of instruments under sub-dimension 2 *Incentives* and instruments given its relative importance for the overall dimension:
  - List of regulatory instruments expanded and new instruments taken into consideration
  - Other types of incentive based government instruments included (e.g. environmental taxes and charges)
  - Questions on green public procurement policies introduced

### <u>Changes in Scope</u>

 ✓ Encompassing broader range of instruments under sub-dimension 2 *Incentives* and instruments given its relative importance for the overall dimension:

THEN	ATIC BLOCK 1: PLANNING & DESIGN									
Does the government provide regulatory instruments for the greening of SMEs?		of SMEs?								
	Is the environmental permitting differentiated based on the lev	el of en	/ironmental risk?							
	Does the government provide financial incentives for the green	ing of s	MEs?							
	Are SMEs subject to other types of incentive-based governme	OPEN	QUESTIONS:							
			What regulatory instruments are used?	2						
	Are there green public procurement policies?		What financial incentives are offered?							
L	Has the private sector been consulted in the development of Has the private sector been consulted in the development of	tof What other types of incentive-based government instruments are SMEs subject to (if any)?								
	Has the private sector been consulted in the development of the sector been consulted in the sector been consulted in the sector been consulted in the sector been consulted i									
THEN	ATIC BLOCK 2: IMPLEMENTATION		If there is evidence of SMEs benefiting	ting from financial incentives for green practices, please specify. How many SMEs benefited from the incentives?						
	Do national or local government authorities implement any pro- Is there evidence of SMEs benefiting from financial incentives		Are there any funds involved into prov	viding financial means that would facilitate SME transition to green economy? Which ones? Are they managed by the government?	L					
	Are sectoral approaches used in environmental permitting an	If the government promotes the use of environmental management system (EMS) among SMEs, how many SMEs used EMS?								
	Does the government body in charge of providing env. guidan	If there are any forms of recognition of green SMEs'performance (e.g. awards), please specify them.								
	Are there any bodies/authorities advocating the interests of S		If there are any programmes/measures	s that aim at raising awareness of more resource efficient and cleaner technologies, please specify them.						
			Which business associations/local aut	thorities is the government collaborating with when developing sectoral green certification programmes/adapting EMS to SME needs?	2					
	Are there "awards" or other forms of recognition of performa				_					
THEN	ATIC BLOCK 3: MONITORING AND EVALUATION Is there regular monitoring of regulatory instruments?	Please provide a self-assessed level for sub-dimension: Incentives and instruments								
	Is there regular monitoring of financial incentives? Is there independent review of regulatory instruments and fir									
	Does the government use any mechanism to receive feedbac	Pleas	e provide a self-assessed level for	r the overall dimension: SMEs in a green economy						



## **Dimension 10: Internationalisation of SMEs Introduction**

### Encourage and support SMEs to benefit from the growth of markets:

"Support and encourage SMEs to benefit from the growth of international markets outside, in particular through market-specific support and business training activities."

- Policy makers and SMEs recognise that accessing international markets and integrating into global value chains can enhance SMEs' growth and productivity.
- However, **SMEs are more reluctant** to engage in any form of internationalisation compared to the large firms.
- In the WBT region: SMEs are less involved in international trade compared to EU peers
  - Barriers to trade have been reduced, but further effort needed
  - Non-existance of programmes that support integration of SMEs into Global Value Chains

## Dimension 10: Internationalisation of SMEs Structure: OLD vs. NEW

10.1. Export promotion			10.2. Integration of SMEs into global value chain			10.3. Trading facilitation			10.4. Use of e-commerce				
				Exp	anded							NEW	
pro	ort promotio gramme ort promotio		fra	framework			<ul> <li>Regulatory barriers to trade</li> <li>Numbers of documents required</li> <li>Time to comply with procedures</li> </ul>			pro to	vernment grammes fo promot nmerce		
<ul> <li>Ser</li> </ul>	ency vices to stim ernationalisa <sup>-</sup> Es		↔ Su							<ul> <li>Legal framework for E- payments</li> <li>Consumer protection</li> </ul>			
✤ Fina	ancial suppo	rt	<ul> <li>Technology transfer promotion</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>Cost to export/import</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>Collection of data on e- commerce</li> </ul>				
Planning & Design	Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design	Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	Planning & Design	Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	Plann & Des		Implementation	Monitoring & Evaluation	

## **Dimension 10: Internationalisation of SMEs Main changes introduced and the rationale**

#### Changes in Scope

New sub-dimension on e-commerce has been introduced with an objective to capture design, implementation and monitoring of programmes supporting use of e-commerce

Sub-dimension 3: Use of E-commerce

THEMATIC BLOCK 1: PLANNING & DESIGN

Are there any government programmes for SMEs to promote E-commerce?

If yes Is the programme linked to the broader SME strategy document?

Is there a legal framework for E-payments?

Is there a legal framework for consumer protection?

THEMATIC BLOCK 2: IMPLEMENTATION

Is a government co-ordinated E-commerce programme operational?

If yes Is there a dedicated entity responsible for the implementation of the programme?

Has a budged been mobilised for the E-commerce promotion programmes targeting SMEs? Is there a dedicated website with easily accessible information regarding E-commerce

THEMATIC BLOCK 3: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Is there a monitoring mechanism in place for the E-commerce promotion programmes? Does the government collect KPI data on e-commerce?

#### OPEN QUESTIONS:

What activities does the programme carry out to facilitate e-commerce of SMEs?

Please provide any additional information which you think is important and might help us evaluate your country better.

\* Additional questions assessing depth of policies that stimulate integration of SMEs into GVCs.



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### Thank you for your attention!

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