



DRAFT AGENDA



Eastern Partner Countries

Small Business Act for Europe Assessment 2020

Regional SBA stakeholder meeting

2-3 July 2019

Paris, France

OECD Headquarters, Room CC2



The **OECD** is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experience, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work together to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The **SBA assessment** is carried out within the context of "EU4Business: From Policies to Action", which is a multi-country project implemented by the OECD in the Eastern Partnership with financial support from the European Union and within the framework of the EU4Business initiative. It is co-ordinated with the work programme of the Eastern Partnership Business Development Panel under Platform 2 on "Economic integration and convergence with EU policies".

■ WHAT IS THE SBA ASSESSMENT ?

The SBA assessment monitors the progress in the implementation of the ten principles of the Small Business Act for Europe and measures convergence towards EU practices and standards.

The dedicated methodology – the SME Policy Index – was specifically developed by the OECD in a joint effort with the European Commission, the EBRD and ETF in 2006 and applied to four regions in 32 economies (Western Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, Middle East and Africa, Southeast Asia).

The SME Policy Index identifies strengths and weaknesses in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The purpose of the SBA assessment is to improve SME policy-making in partner economies and to enhance the capacity of policy-makers and institutions to foster entrepreneurship.

It aims to support governments in setting targets for SME policy developments and strategic priorities to further improve their business environment. It also engages governments in policy dialogue and facilitates the exchange of experiences within the region and with the partner organisations.



This project is implemented with the financial support of the European Union within the [EU4Business](#) initiative. EU4Business is an EU initiative that helps SMEs in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership region to realise their full potential and boost economic growth.

■ WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEETING ?

The third cycle of the SBA assessment for the Eastern Partner Countries was launched in September 2018. The assessment builds on the established methodology and process of previous assessment rounds, but has been revised to incorporate new elements aiming at broadening the scope of the publication with an evaluation of the overall business climate conditions and to more accurately reflect private sector perspectives.

This Regional SBA stakeholder meeting will provide an opportunity for the OECD and its partners to share initial findings of the SBA assessment by thematic pillar and present countries' preliminary scores. It will also offer a platform to discuss potential information gaps as well as initial policy recommendations, encouraging the participants to comment and share their views regarding future priorities for SME development.

■ WHO WILL PARTICIPATE ?

The Regional SBA stakeholder meeting will bring together SME policy stakeholders, including the countries' SBA co-ordinators, government representatives from line ministries and government agencies, as well as representatives from the private sector.

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2 July – Regional SBA stakeholder meeting (Room CC2)

This meeting provides an opportunity for the OECD, EBRD and ETF to share initial findings of the SBA assessment by thematic pillar and present countries' preliminary scores. It will also offer a platform to discuss potential information gaps as well as initial policy recommendations, encouraging the participants from the Government and the private sector to comment and exchange good practices.

Discussion moderated by **William Tompson**, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD Global Relations

09.00-09.30	Registration and welcome coffee
09.30-09.45	Opening remarks
	<p>Daniel Quadbeck, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p>Hoa-Binh Adjemian, Head of Sector Economic Development, DG NEAR C1, European Commission</p>
09.45-10.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Business environment and level-playing field</p> <p>The new SBA assessment broadens the scope of analysis and includes key policy areas of the business environment contributing to creating a level-playing field for businesses of all sizes. The following dimensions are assessed: Competition, Business integrity and Contract enforcement.</p>
	<p>Sabine Zigelski, Senior Competition Expert, OECD Competition Division</p> <p>Olga Savran, Manager, OECD Anti-Corruption Division</p> <p>Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10.45-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar A – Responsive Government</p> <p>Pillar A assesses policies across three dimensions: a) Institutional framework, b) Operational environment and c) Bankruptcy and second chance</p>
	<p>Antonio Fanelli, Senior Expert on SME policy</p> <p>Hubert Massoni, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12.00-13.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar B – Entrepreneurial Human Capital</p> <p>Pillar B assesses policies that promote entrepreneurship across the education and training system. Policy dimensions that are covered within this pillar are: a) Entrepreneurial learning and women's entrepreneurship and b) Enterprise skills</p>
	<p>Olena Bekh, Human Capital Development Specialist, ETF</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch – Restaurant des Nations (OECD Conference Centre)</i>

14.30-15.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar C – Access to Finance</p> <p>Pillar C assesses policies to ease SME access to finance, relating to the legal and regulatory framework, bank financing, non-bank financing, the venture capital ecosystem and financial literacy</p>
	<p>Svenja Petersen, Principal, EBRD</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15.30-16.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar D – Access to markets</p> <p>Pillar D assesses policies that allow SMEs to reach new markets and benefit from government support programmes and projects. Three policy dimensions are covered by this pillar: a) Public procurement, b) Standards and technical regulations and c) Internationalisation</p>
	<p>Daniel Ivarsson, Senior Expert on Public Procurement</p> <p>Patrik Pruzinsky, Policy Analyst, /</p> <p>Knut Blind, Chair of Innovation Economics, Technical University Berlin</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
16.30-16.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.45-17.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar E – Productivity and innovation</p> <p>Pillar E assesses policies to improve SME performance and supporting SME innovation. The pillar covers the following policy dimensions: a) Business Development Services, b) Innovation policy and c) Green economy</p>
	<p>Alena Frid, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p>Francesco Alfonso, Project Co-ordinator, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p>Guy Halpern, Policy Analyst, OECD Environment Directorate</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
17.45-18.00	Conclusions and next steps
19.00-21.00	<p><i>Dinner - Location TBD</i></p> <p><i>(transfer to the restaurant by bus, departing from OECD at 18.15)</i></p>

3 July – Bilateral country meetings

These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss in depth, and in a bilateral format, country-specific elements of the SBA assessment related to the information collected, the interpretation of findings, and the initial policy recommendations. Government and private sector representatives will be invited to share their views on priorities for SME development in the national contexts.

Bilateral meetings will be led by:

Daniel Quadbeck, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division

Olena Bekh, Human Capital Development Specialist, ETF

Svenja Petersen, Principal, EBRD

	OECD Pillar A, D, E <i>Room 2122</i>	ETF Pillar B <i>Room 3294</i>	EBRD Pillar C <i>Room 4294</i>
09.00 – 10.00	Georgia	Armenia	Belarus
10.00 – 11.00	Armenia	Belarus	Georgia
11.00 – 12.00	Belarus	Georgia	Armenia
12.00 – 13.00	Moldova	Azerbaijan	Ukraine
<i>13.00 – 14.00</i>	<i>Lunch – Buffet du Parc (OECD Conference Centre)</i>		
14.00 – 15.00	Ukraine	Moldova	Azerbaijan
15.00 – 16.00	Azerbaijan	Ukraine	Moldova
<i>End of meeting</i>			