



EU4Business



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



DRAFT AGENDA

# EU4Business: From Policies to Action Belarus

- **Monitoring the implementation of Business Development Services policy roadmap**
- **Good practice on developing a support programme for high-growth enterprises**

Thursday, 12 December 2019, 10.00-16.30

Hotel Marriot

Minsk, Belarus





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 to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

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The project "EU4Business: From Policies to Action" is a multi-country project implemented by the OECD in the Eastern Partnership with financial support from the European Union 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".

The project component on "Monitoring the implementation of Business Development Services policy roadmap" and "Capacity building on support programmes for high-growth enterprises" are implemented by the OECD in close co-operation with the EU to co-ordinate activities. The results of this project will be submitted for peer review at the next session of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable.

#### Contact

Mr Daniel Quadbeck  
Project Manager  
OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme  
Email: [Daniel.QUADBECK@oecd.org](mailto:Daniel.QUADBECK@oecd.org)

#### ■ WHAT IS THE PROJECT CONTEXT?

Belarus is in the process of upgrading its policies to create a favorable environment for entrepreneurship and the institutional framework to support small and medium-sized enterprises. In this context, the Government has recently adopted the national SME Promotion Strategy for the period until 2030, with the objective to encourage the growth of the SME sector, increase its competitiveness, create new jobs and raise living standards

In 2016, the OECD supported the Ministry of Economy of Belarus with a policy roadmap to strengthen SME capabilities through Business Development Services (BDS), which was peer reviewed at the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable. Policy recommendations focused on three areas: building the institutional framework for delivery of BDS, unlocking latent demand and promoting market-oriented supply of BDS.

#### ■ WHAT IS THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE?

The objective of the project is twofold: i) to monitor progress in the implementation of a policy roadmap to strengthen SME capabilities through improved Business Development Services for SMEs, and ii) to build capacity in Belarus' institutional to design support programmes for high-growth enterprises.

In order to meet this objective, the project will focus on the following activities:

- Strengthen public-private dialogue through Working Group meetings with international experts, Belarusian stakeholders and OECD;
- Provide support in monitoring the implementation of a policy roadmap to improve BDS for SMEs;
- Organise capacity building sessions with international experts to design support programmes for SMEs.

The main beneficiaries of this project are the Ministry of Economy, the Belarusian Fund for Financial Support for Entrepreneurs, the Development Bank of Belarus, and other SME stakeholders involved in the implementation and monitoring of the policy roadmap.



**EU4Business**

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.

## THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2019

09.30-10.00	<b>Welcome coffee-break</b>
10.00-10.10	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dmitry Matusevich</b>, Deputy Minister of Economy of Belarus (TBC)</li> </ul>
10.10-10.20	<b>Introduction and project outline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alena Frid</b>, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia</li> </ul>
<p><u>Session 1 – Monitoring the implementation of the Business Development Services policy roadmap</u>  This session will focus on presenting the findings of the implementation assessment of Belarus' Business Development Services policy roadmap and the initial recommendations on developing a sustainable market for Business development services. Belarus' concept note for establishing an SME agency will also be discussed and good practice cases presented.</p>	
10.20-10.45	<b>Implementation status of Belarus' BDS policy roadmap and initial recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alena Frid</b>, Policy analyst, OECD Eurasia</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion</i>  <i>Working group members are invited to comment, share their experience, and ask questions</i></p>
10.45-11.25	<b>Belarus' priorities for the implementation of the SME Strategy until 2030 – focus on BDS and SME agency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Irina Babachenok</b>, Director of the Entrepreneurship Department, Ministry of Economy, Belarus</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion</i>  <i>Working group members are invited to comment, share their experience, and ask questions</i></p>
11.25-12.15	<b>OECD good practices on establishing an SME agency – discussion on Belarus' priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antonio Fanelli</b>, Senior SME policy expert, Italy</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion</i>  <i>Working group members are invited to comment, share their experience, and ask questions</i></p>
12.15-13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
<p><u>Session 2 – Designing a specific class of BDS: support programmes for high-growth enterprises</u>  This session will focus on principles and good practices to design a targeted support programme for high-growth enterprises, touching upon programme set-up, execution and impact assessment.</p>	
13.30-14.15	<b>High-growth enterprises: their role in the economy, rationale for public support and access to finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antti Rauhala</b>, Policy analyst, OECD Eurasia</li> <li>• <b>Anders Joensson</b>, Chief of innovative policies development section, UNECE</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion</i>  <i>Working group members are invited to comment, share their experience, and ask questions</i></p>
14.15-15.15	<b>Breakout session on OECD good practice: case studies of targeted support programmes for HGEs and their applicability to Belarus – group discussions</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the session by: <b>Max Bulakovskiy</b>, Project co-ordinator, OECD Global Relations Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><i>Each of the 3 breakout groups will be composed of government, private sector and research institute/international organisation representatives. The group discussions will be facilitated by the OECD/UNECE.</i></p>
15.15-15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.45-16.20	<p><b>Breakout session on OECD good practice: group presentations and open discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each group presents main findings (<i>10 min/group</i>)</li> <li>• Summary of key findings and initial guidelines: <b>Max Bulakovskiy</b>, Project co-ordinator, OECD Global Relations Secretariat</li> </ul>
16.20-16.30	<p><b>Conclusion and closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alena Frid</b>, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia</li> <li>• <b>Irina Babachenok</b>, Director of the Entrepreneurship Department, Ministry of Economy, Belarus</li> </ul>