



EU4Business



DRAFT AGENDA

EU4Business: From Policies to Action

Belarus

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

Wednesday, 7 March 2019, 10.00-12.45
Academy of Public Administration
Minsk, Belarus





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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.

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■ 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.

WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH

10.00-10.10 **Welcoming remarks**

- **Dmitry Matusevich**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Belarus

10.10-10.20 **Introduction and project outline**

- **Daniel Quadbeck**, Project Manager, OECD Eurasia

Session 1 – Monitoring the implementation of the Business Development Services policy roadmap

This session will focus on presenting the assessment framework of the implementation of Belarus' Business Development Services policy roadmap. Participants will discuss gaps and priorities for the upcoming implementation period.

10.20-10.40 **Assessment framework of the implementation status of Belarus' BDS policy roadmap**

- **Alena Frid**, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia

10.40-11.20 **Belarus' priorities for the implementation of the SME Strategy until 2030 – focus on BDS**

- **Irina Babachenok**, Director of the Entrepreneurship Department, Ministry of Economy, Belarus

Open discussion

Working group members are invited to comment, share their experience, and ask questions

11.20-11.30 *Coffee break*Session 2 – Designing a specific class of BDS: support programmes for high-growth enterprises

This session will focus on principles and good practices to design a specific support programmes for high-growth enterprises, touching upon programme set-up, execution and impact assessment.

11.30-12.00 **High-growth enterprises: their role in the economy, rationale for public support**

- **Antonio Fanelli**, Senior SME policy expert, Italy

12.00-12.40 **Good practice to design support programmes for HGE: insights from OECD benchmarking exercise**

- **Francesco Alfonso**, Project Co-ordinator, OECD Eurasia

Open discussion

Working group members are invited to comment, share their experience, and ask questions

12.40-12.45 **Conclusion and closing remarks**

- **Dmitry Matusevich**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Belarus (TBC)
- **Daniel Quadbeck**, Project Manager, OECD Eurasia