Financing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

International good practices to boost Ukraine's competitiveness

Tuesday 19th February 2013

9:30 – 12:00

Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Ukraine
Room 620

3a vul. Sadova, Kyiv

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are key drivers of productivity and economic growth in both advanced and developing economies. They account for the largest share of employment in most countries and for the largest creation of jobs in the OECD economies. Additionally, SMEs are important drivers of innovation and upgraded quality of output. However, without adequate funding, the ability of SMEs to contribute to productivity and job creation, attract investment, and access international markets is hampered.

The Sector Competitiveness Strategy of Ukraine report (OECD, 2012) identified access to finance as a major constraint stifling the productivity and growth of agribusiness players and in particular SMEs. Despite accounting for more than half of the country’s agricultural output, SMEs do not receive enough credit lines to finance working capital and investment. Commercial banks are reluctant to lend to these firms and hedge themselves against risk by raising either the interest rate applied to loans or collateral requirements.

This seminar focuses on the topic of access to finance for SMEs, drawing on recent OECD analysis. Its main goal is to contribute to Ukraine’s successful policymaking in this area by presenting the main recommendations of the Ukraine report, as well as a framework developed by the OECD for monitoring SMEs and entrepreneurs access to finance over time. This seminar will also showcase an international example of successful financing SMEs, presenting good practices and lessons learnt.

In addition to policymakers and public sector representatives, the participants in this seminar include representatives from the academic and research community, business associations, employees associations, incubators, and civil society involved in supporting SME development.

This event is organised within the framework of collaboration between the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, the Government of Sweden, and the Government of Ukraine. English-Ukrainian interpretation will be provided.
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DRAFT PROGRAMME

9:30-10:00 Welcome and opening remarks

- Mr. Hryhoriy Nemyrya, Head of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration Parliament of Ukraine (tbc)

10:00-10:30 Ukraine’s Sector Competitiveness Strategy Project

- Mr. Grégory Lecomte, Project Co-ordinator, OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

- Ms. Gabriela Miranda, Project Manager, OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

10:30-11:00 The OECD Scoreboard on Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs – an International Framework

- Ms. Michela Meghnagi, Statistical Analyst, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development

11:00-11:30 Financing SMEs: The case of Hungary

- Mr. Peter Pogacsas, Head of Unit, Ministry for National Economy, Department for Regional Enterprise Development, Hungary

11:30-12:00 Questions and Answers