ERP Workshop: Non-Financial Services for SMEs in Montenegro

20-21 October 2016

2, rue André Pascal
OECD Marshal Building, Paris
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The OECD South East Europe (SEE) Regional Programme has its roots in the Stability Pact for South East Europe, founded in 2000. It supports Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey (as the EU candidate country) in boosting economic growth, investment and employment through targeted reforms related to competitiveness. The work focuses on different areas, including enhancing competitiveness, SME policy, innovation policy and economic reform programmes.

OECD assistance supports policy-makers from the region with the design, monitoring and improved implementation of the structural reforms. The latter are fundamental for SEE economies in their transition to functioning market economies, and are therefore instrumental in their accession and pre-accession track towards European Union membership. In the Enlargement Strategy Paper of October 2014, the European Commission (EC) outlines three pillars of the transformation process in the SEE economies: (I) Rule of Law, (II) Economic Governance, and (III) Public Administration Reform. As a result, economies have been developing annual Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs), outlining their medium term macroeconomic and fiscal policy frameworks and comprehensive structural reform agendas. The ERPs cover nine areas: public finance management; energy, transport and telecommunications markets; sectoral development; business environment and the reduction of the informal economy; research and innovation; external trade and investment facilitation; education and skills; employment and labour market; social inclusion, poverty reduction and equal opportunities.

To support this endeavour, the OECD has been mandated by the EC to collaborate closely with SEE economies to prepare their ERPs by providing analytical support and building capacity of responsible government authorities.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?
This event serves the purpose of providing assistance in defining non-financial support measures for SMEs in Montenegro, as part of the Montenegrin Economic Reform Programme for 2017-2019. The OECD team, in co-operation with international experts, will outline the key approaches and challenges related to non-financial support for SMEs, in particular investment readiness, financial literacy and internationalisation and clustering. The representatives of Montenegro will present the update on the current SME support, as well as share information on the preparation of the SME strategy and the ERP 2017-19. The representatives of the Slovak Business Agency will share their experience in providing SME support services. Finally, the OECD team will provide assistance in translating the key inputs on non-financial support for SMEs into concrete measures taking into account the economic context of Montenegro.

Meeting contacts

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This is not an official meeting of an OECD body.
ERP WORKSHOP: NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR SMEs IN MONTENEGRO
20 October 2016, Room MB 4122
09:40-17:00

Objective
Within the OECD support to the ERP process in Montenegro, the OECD team in co-operation with international experts will present approaches and challenges related to non-financial support for SMEs and provide the assistance in designing the SME related part of the ERP 2017-2019 document. The special emphasis will be placed on policies and programmes stimulating investment readiness, financial literacy and internationalisation of SMEs. The event will be organised in the form of a workshop.

09:40-10:00 WELCOME COFFEE

10:00-10:15 Opening remarks
Ms. Marzena Kisielewska, Head of South East Europe Division, OECD Global Relations Secretariat
This session will be devoted to welcoming participants and outlining the objectives of the workshop.

10:15-11:15 SBA findings 2016 and the role of non-financial support services for SMEs in the context economic reforms
Mr. Antonio Fanelli, Senior Advisor, OECD Global Relations Secretariat
Ms. Jovana Pavlović, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division
This session will summarise key findings and recommendations related to SME support services in Montenegro as identified by SME Policy Index for Western Balkans and Turkey 2016 and outline key approaches to non-financial support services for SMEs and their role in broader context.

11:15-12:15 Current and envisaged government SME support initiatives in Montenegro
Ms. Nataša Batrićević, Head of Department for Development Projects, Institutional Support, Education and Promotion, Directorate for Industry and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Economy of Montenegro
Ms. Ivana Zečević, Advisor for Competitive Enhancement and Export Promotion, Directorate for SME Development
Ms. Mira Trebjesanin, Head of Support Services Credit Operations, Investment Development Fund of Montenegro
Ms. Sanja Varajić, Adviser at Enterprise Europe Network, Directorate for SME Development
In this session the Montenegrin delegation will provide an update on the current SME support mechanism and lessons learnt from previous government support (including successful and less efficient support measures). At the same time it will outline what type of support to SMEs is envisaged under the new SME strategy as well as draft ERP 2017-2019.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-13:30</td>
<td>LUNCH – Restaurant des Nations</td>
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<td>13:30-14:30</td>
<td><strong>Investment readiness</strong></td>
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<td>Mr. Kris Boschmans, Policy Analyst, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development</td>
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<td><em>This session will outline key approaches and programmes that could improve investment readiness among SMEs.</em></td>
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<td>14:30-15:30</td>
<td><strong>Financial literacy</strong></td>
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<td><em>This session will outline key approaches and programmes that could improve financial literacy among SMEs.</em></td>
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<td>15:30-15:45</td>
<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>15:45-16:45</td>
<td><strong>Internationalisation and clustering</strong></td>
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<td>Mr. Reinoud Nuijten, Programme Manager, International Trade and Development, Netherlands Enterprise Agency</td>
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<td><em>This session will be devoted to key approaches and programmes that could stimulate internationalisation of SMEs.</em></td>
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<td>16:45-17:00</td>
<td><strong>Interim summary</strong></td>
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21 October 2016, Room MB 4122
09:30-13:30

09:30-11:00  SME support services – Experience from Slovakia
Mr. Marián Letovanec, Director of the National and International Programmes Section, Slovak Business Agency
This session will be devoted to SME support programmes implemented by the Slovak Business Agency, challenges experienced and lessons learnt from the process.

11:00-11:15  COFFEE BREAK

11:15-13:15  Discussion on how to translate inputs from the workshop into ERP 2017-2019 reform measures
Ms. Anita Richter, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division
Mr. Patrik Pruzinsky, Policy Analyst and ERP Co-ordinator for Montenegro, OECD South East Europe Division
This session will provide a brief update on the latest OECD tools and approaches to support the ERP process and outline how the discussed programmes related to non-financial support to SMEs could be converted into concrete measures of the ERP.

13:15-13:30  Closing remarks
Ms. Marzena Kisielewska, Head of South East Europe Division, OECD Global Relations Secretariat