



مؤسسة محمد بن راشد للتنمية
المشاريع الصغيرة والمتوسطة
DUBAI SME



إحدى مؤسسات دائرة التنمية الاقتصادية - حكومة دبي
An Agency of the Department of Economic Development - Government of Dubai

REGIONAL MEETING ON SME, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ACCESS TO FINANCE INDICATORS IN THE GCC COUNTRIES

Business Village
Block B, level 2, Conference Center

Dubai, 6-7 December 2011

AGENDA

Background:

Policies for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship are among the priority areas of economic policy, innovation and job creation. Over the last ten years, countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) prioritised SME policy and, more recently, entrepreneurship promotion in view of supporting economic growth, diversification, productivity, innovation and employment. Most countries in the region have also implemented reforms and launched programmes to support horizontal and targeted policies aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and creating a more business-friendly environment.

Notwithstanding this progress, there is an important scarcity of data and evidence in the GCC on SMEs and entrepreneurship at the national, subnational and regional levels. This means that there is little empirical evidence, which impinges on the capacity of governments to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate those policies.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) supports member and non-member economies through sharing experiences and best practices in SME and entrepreneurship policy. The OECD also develops tools to facilitate evidence-based policy making and to support policy design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and benchmarking. The accumulated OECD expertise and experience in SME and entrepreneurship issues and policies could prove instrumental for GCC countries in strengthening their evidence-based policy making capacities.

In this context, the OECD and Dubai SME, an agency of the Department of Economic Development, Government of Dubai, are hosting a regional meeting that will bring together representatives of GCC governments, national statistics offices and experts, as well as experts from OECD countries and from the OECD Secretariat. The goals of the meeting are to:

- present and compare levels of entrepreneurial activity in the GCC countries;
- review key tools and measures for SME policy development;
- develop awareness and share good practices on evidence-based policy-making;
- share good practices developed in OECD countries with regards to data collection (i.e. statistical methods, data harmonisation) and review current statistical capacities in GCC economies; and
- bring together entrepreneurship/SME policy experts and statisticians from National Statistics Offices in order identify the needs of MENA economies for a general measurement framework on entrepreneurship and specific issues such as access to finance.

AGENDA

DAY ONE – 6 DECEMBER 2011

09:00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 9.45	Welcome note by Dubai SME
9.45 – 11.15	Session I – Entrepreneurial activity and SME development policy in the GCC countries
11:15 –11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 13:00	Session II – Evidence-based policy making: the experience of OECD countries
13:00 –14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15.45	Session III - SME statistical definitions, SME statistics and the OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme
15.45 – 16.15	Coffee break
16:15 –17:30	Session IV – Access to finance: statistical indicators

DAY TWO – 7 DECEMBER 2011

09:15 – 11.00	Session V - Good practices in policy dialogue and public-private consultations
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11:30 –13:00	Session VI – Regional SME development cooperation projects: the SME Policy Index
13.00 – 15:00	Lunch break
15:00 – 16.30	The way forward Conclusions by the OECD and Dubai SME

Regional Meeting on SME, Entrepreneurship and Access to Finance Indicators in the GCC Countries

DAY ONE – 6 DECEMBER 2011

09.30 – 9.45

Opening speech by Dubai SME

- H.E. Abdul Baset Al Janahi, CEO Dubai SME

9.45 – 11.15

Session I – Entrepreneurial activity and SME development policy in the GCC countries

The economic dynamism inherent in entrepreneurship is generated through an ongoing process of “creative destruction”, a result of the entry and exit of businesses (usually small firms) from the market. This process is considered to be an important factor for continuing economic progress and competitiveness.

The discussions in this session will focus on the characteristics and drivers of entrepreneurial activity and policies to foster SMEs and entrepreneurship, mainly in the GCC but also in emerging and OECD economies.

Introduction by the OECD and Dubai SME

- Antonio Fanelli, Deputy Head of the Private Sector Development Division, OECD
- Alexandar Williams, Director Strategy and Policy, Dubai SME

Keynote presentation

- Professor Jay Mitra, Associate Director (International Development), Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Research, University of Essex. Presentation on “Emerging Innovation and Entrepreneurship: New pathways from emerging economies”.

Round Table Discussion

11.15 – 11.45

Coffee break

11.45 – 13.00

Session II – Evidence-based policy making: the experience of OECD countries

Solid and timely evidence is essential in developing and implementing sound policies and programmes to support SMEs and entrepreneurship. It is also fundamental to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of these policies and to consistently improve the design and administration of programmes.

This session will discuss OECD experience and best practice in evidence-based policy making on entrepreneurship and SME promotion.

Introduction by the OECD

- Lucia Cusmano, Senior Economist, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development

Keynote presentation

- Professor David Storey, Associate Dean Research & Director of Enterprise Group, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

Round Table Discussion

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch break

14.30 – 15.45

Session III - SME statistical definitions, SME statistics and the OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme

The OECD launched the Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme (EIP) in 2006 with a view to building internationally comparable statistics on entrepreneurship and its determinants. In 2007, Eurostat joined forces with the OECD to create a joint OECD-Eurostat EIP, and worked to develop standard definitions and concepts as a basis for the collection of empirical data.

The EIP is based on a framework of indicators comprising determinants of entrepreneurship (for example, the regulatory framework, entrepreneurial culture, access to finance), entrepreneurial performance (for example, birth and death rates of employer enterprise, survival rates, high-growth firms and gazelles) and the impact of entrepreneurship (for example, job creation, economic growth and poverty reduction). It also includes timely indicators measuring recent trends in entrepreneurship.

This session will discuss the EIP indicators and the possibility of including GCC and MENA countries where data is available or where data could be collected.

Keynote presentation

- Nadim Ahmad, Head of National Accounts, PPPs, Prices and Productivity Section, OECD, Statistics Directorate

Round Table Discussion

15.45 – 16.15

Coffee break

16.15 – 17.30

Session IV – Access to finance: statistical indicators

Policy makers have identified SME access to finance as a recurring, structural problem in OECD and non-OECD countries alike, which the recent financial and economic crisis has exacerbated. As governments seek to increase the contribution of SMEs and entrepreneurship to economic growth, employment and social cohesion, they are running up against a major and longstanding obstacle to policy making, namely

insufficient evidence and data.

The *2010 Pilot Scoreboard on SME and Entrepreneurship Financing*, produced by the Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (WPSMEE), established a framework to measure and track the progress of SMEs and entrepreneurs' access to finance over time, including measures related to policies seeking to ease or support SME and entrepreneurship financing. It was composed of indicators on debt, equity and financing framework conditions and included 11 countries covering the period 2007-2009. The pilot countries were: Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States.

Following the positive response to the Pilot Scoreboard, the next steps include continuing the collection, improvement and standardisation of timely data in order to enhance cross-country comparisons and expanding country coverage.

This session will be devoted to the presentation of the Scoreboard and discussion of the possibility to include MENA and GCC countries in the exercise.

Introduction

- Professor Salvatore Zecchini, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Development, Italy and Chair of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship

Keynote Presentation

- Lucia Cusmano, Senior Economist, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development

Round Table Discussion

End of day one

DAY TWO – 7 DECEMBER 2011

9.15 – 11.00

Session V - Good practices in policy dialogue and public-private consultations

The elaboration of effective policies for the promotion of SMEs and entrepreneurship depends not only on thorough analysis by governments but also on active and engaged dialogue among policymakers and the final beneficiaries of policies and programmes. A continued process of dialogue between governments and the private sector has to be undertaken to support the process of policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Several OECD member and non-member countries engage in dialogue practices and the exchange of experience in this domain can enhance their value.

This session will discuss several examples of policy dialogue and public-private consultations in OECD and GCC countries.

Presentations

- Professor David Storey, Associate Dean Research & Director of Enterprise Group, University of Sussex, United Kingdom.
- Professor Salvatore Zecchini, Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Development, Italy and Chair of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship
- Dr. Dale Murphy, Director of Entrepreneurship, Dubai School of Government

Round Table Discussion

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

Session VI – Regional SME development cooperation projects: the SME Policy Index

Benchmarking of policies and programmes is one of the key elements in international policy dialogue and in sharing experience and best practice. Benchmarking exercises help to develop standards for policy elaboration and improvement by comparing national policies to international good practice without excluding the consideration of the specific characteristics among different economies.

The OECD, in cooperation with the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Training Foundation, has developed a SME Policy Index to assess several dimensions in SME and entrepreneurship policy such as education and training for entrepreneurship; cheaper and faster start-up; better legislation and deregulation and skills availability. The SME Policy Index has been used to benchmark economies in the Western Balkans, Eastern

Europe and the Caucasus, and MENA economies.

This session will be devoted to the presentation of the SME Policy Index and discussion about the possibilities of implementing an assessment in the GCC.

Keynote presentation by the OECD on cross country SME Policy Assessment (the examples of Turkey, the Western Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus)

- Antonio Fanelli, Deputy Head of the Private Sector Development Division, OECD

Round Table Discussion

13.00 – 15.00

Lunch break

15.00 – 16.30

The way forward

The initiatives and experience presented during the two days of the meeting will provide elements for discussion on the possibility of establishing a regional process of dialogue in the GCC built around the experience of the OECD on SME and entrepreneurship. This will involve the benchmarking of regional experiences against OECD policies and the introduction of a common regional platform for SME policy monitoring and evaluation.

Discussions will also be centred on the possibility to involve a pilot set of GCC countries in the EIP and the Scoreboard on SME and Entrepreneurship Financing.

A series of regional and national capacity building workshops bringing together policy-makers and statisticians could also be proposed in order to share good practices in the collection of SME, entrepreneurship and SME financing statistics.

As a further step, a simplified set of indicators could be developed, based on the priorities of the GCC countries. These indicators would be used in order to compare determinants and performance of entrepreneurship and access to finance in GCC economies. If possible, the collected set of statistics could be compared with the dataset already available for OECD and emerging economies participating in both statistical exercises.

Round Table Discussion

Conclusions by the OECD and Dubai SME

End of the meeting
