Did you know that SMEs are key drivers of innovation, providing solutions for the green transition? But they also have a significant collective environmental footprint, with SMEs in Europe accounting for about 40% of total business greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions according to new OECD estimates.

There can be no net zero without SMEs – and sustainable finance...

The OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability aims to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access sustainable financing and increase momentum towards the green transition.

We bring together a diverse group of participants, including both public and private financial institutions, policy makers, ESG (environmental, social, and governance) actors and SME representatives. Through this collaboration, we aim to address knowledge gaps and promote dialogue on policies that support sustainable finance for SMEs.

Our unique Platform assists members in integrating environmental and climate considerations into their SME portfolios, providing them with valuable data, analysis and practical solutions. By enhancing awareness and engagement among SMEs, we help our members make strides towards sustainability while also showcasing their leadership in this important area.

Data is the biggest challenge banks face in integrating climate change considerations in SME financing decisions

What are the key challenges you face in integrating climate change considerations in financing/investment decisions regarding SME clients? (% of respondents, multiple answers possible)

- Lack of data on SME climate performance
- Lack of internal knowledge/capacities
- Lack of guidance from national authorities
- Lack of clear strategy at institutional level
- Conflict with other objectives of the institution
- Do not know/not sure

Source: Financing SMEs for Sustainability - Financial Institution Strategies and Approaches, OECD, 2023

What’s new?

In 2024, the Platform is working to remove barriers to sustainable finance for SMEs and to accelerate the implementation of good practices at national and international levels:

- Launch of a global dialogue to foster convergence on financial institutions’ data requirements from SMEs, including a stocktake of existing measurement approaches and tools;
- Identifying good practices in financial institutions’ offer of green, sustainable and transition finance instruments, through policy mapping and assessment;
- Development of frameworks for SME transition planning, to unlock transition finance for small businesses; and
- Provision of tailored country analysis and support.
JOIN THE OECD PLATFORM ON FINANCING SMEs FOR SUSTAINABILITY

We empower our members and partners to learn, network, engage in collective projects, gain access to policy makers and promote their own good practices and initiatives:

**Connect with a growing global network:** Join a community of institutions that prioritise sustainability, expanding your reach and influence in this important area.

**Influence policy makers:** Have a say in discussions with policy makers regarding financing for sustainable SMEs, ensuring your voice is heard on critical issues.

**Shape policy guidance:** Contribute inputs and offer high-level policy guidance to the OECD, G20, and partner governments, helping to shape future initiatives and regulations.

**Showcase your initiatives:** Highlight and promote your sustainable finance initiatives and best practices, gaining recognition for your contributions to SME sustainability.

**Stay informed:** Keep up to date with the latest developments, innovative projects and initiatives from institutions worldwide, ensuring you remain at the forefront of sustainable finance.

**Implement action:** Learn from members’ experiences and implement effective operational approaches and instruments related to ESG integration and SME support.

**Understand diverse financing needs:** Gain insight into the varied financing requirements of SMEs, enabling you to better address demand-side constraints and provide tailored support.

**Benchmark progress:** Compare your activities and progress in sustainable finance with other members, identifying areas for improvement and best practices.

**Collaborate on research:** Engage in collective research projects with the OECD and fellow members, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in this field.

How we work

- **Webinars on timely topics and an annual conference.**
- **Regular exchanges with members and knowledge partners.**
- **Analytical work on financing SMEs for sustainability.**
- **Benchmarking surveys and discussions on data and reporting.**
- **Brown-bag lunches that inform the debate.**

Join the campaign on #NoNetZeroWithoutSMEs

Our members:

- British Business Bank
- bdc
- Industrial Bank of Korea
- bpi

Our knowledge partners:

- Bankers for Net Zero
- EBFB
- SME Climate Hub
- The Montreal Group
- SME Finance Forum

About us

We are a member-funded initiative launched at COP26 in 2021. We are hosted by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, a global reference in the area of SME and entrepreneurship finance data, policy analysis and dialogue.