

PRESS RELEASE

OECD recommends reforms to boost competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Tajikistan

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 18 March 2015

Two OECD Policy Handbooks released today provide recommendations to boost the competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Tajikistan and improve the use of its considerable remittance inflows.

The recommendations focus on improving exports by agribusiness SMEs in Tajikistan as well as on facilitating the banking of remittances and fostering migrant entrepreneurship. Today, agribusiness is a strategically important sector representing about 27% of Tajikistan's GDP and employing close to half of the total labour force. At the same time, Tajikistan continues to receive substantial inflows of remittances which are the country's biggest source of external revenue. Key OECD recommendations include:

- **Building further export promotion capacities**, either within Tajinvest, the government agency responsible for investment attraction and export promotion, or by creating a dedicated export promotion agency;
- **Strengthening and developing service co-operatives in the agribusiness sector and decreasing the tax compliance burden for SMEs;**
- **Increasing financial inclusion of migrants and their families** by connecting Money Transfer Organisations to the local banking and micro-finance sector;
- **Boosting entrepreneurship of returning migrants**, to leverage their potential for job creation and knowledge transfers.

The Handbooks are published as a result of a project co-financed by the European Union and implemented by the OECD, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The Handbooks benefited from the active participation of Tajikistan's government, private sector representatives and NGOs. They were peer reviewed in Paris in November 2014 at the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable, a policy network bringing together high-level representatives from across the Eurasia region and OECD Member countries.

The OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme will continue to support the Government of Tajikistan, partner organisations and international donors in monitoring the implementation of these recommendations. In 2016, the Government of Tajikistan will be invited to present progress achieved in the implementation of these recommendations at the fourth meeting of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable.

The electronic versions of the Policy Handbooks are freely accessible at: <http://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/investmentandcompetitivenessintajikistan.htm>

For more information on the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, please visit: www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm

Contacts:

Mr. Grégory Lecomte
Project Manager
OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme
Email: gregory.lecomte@oecd.org

Ms. Vanessa Vallée
Communications Manager
OECD Global Relations
Email: vanessa.vallee@oecd.org