

Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE)

Concept Note - SME and Entrepreneurship stakeholder Dialogue Event

Side event of the CSMEET Ministerial 2023

26 June 2023, 14h00-18h00, OECD Auditorium

This document provides information on the stakeholder event co-organised by Business at OECD (BIAC) and the OECD on 26 June 2023, including the agenda, the outputs, and the targeted audience. This event opened to SMEs, business association and government officials is organised as part of the stakeholder consultation process for the CSMEET Meeting at the Ministerial level taking place on 27-28 June 2023. The discussions during the event will inform the Ministerial meeting.

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SME and Entrepreneurship Stakeholder Dialogue Event

 (Joint *Business at OECD* – OECD event)

26 June, 14h00-18h00, OECD Conference Centre, Auditorium

In preparation for the June 2023 OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)'s Meeting at the Ministerial Level, the event will aim to explore the private sector's role in the context of the overarching theme of the ministerial, "Managing the Shocks and Transitions – Future-Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies". It will be an opportunity to assess the current situation of SMEs and entrepreneurship, to identify main business priorities, opportunities and challenges, to engage in a dialogue with selected Ministers, and to explore an agenda for further private sector action. Discussions will help set the scene for the 27-28 June 2023 Ministerial meeting.

Main outputs of the proposed event:

- Introduction of *Business at OECD*'s "Looking for the New Normal 2.0" survey (April-May) findings;
- Identification of private sector priorities regarding SME and entrepreneurship policy;
- Discussion of opportunities for public-private sector cooperation in future-proofing SME and entrepreneurship policies.

Event Target Audience and Participants

- High level OECD government representatives, including Ministers;
- High level OECD Secretariat officials, including Deputy Secretary General;
- Officials from international business organisations;
- Representatives from national SME/entrepreneur associations and individual SMEs;
- Business at OECD SME and Entrepreneurship Committee leadership, members, and Director-level participants from BIAC member federations.

Event timeline

	Monday, 26 June	Tuesday, 27 June	Wednesday, 28 June
Morning			CSMEE Ministerial Plenary Session 2 and Breakout Sessions
Afternoon	Joint Business at OECD – OECD Stakeholder Dialogue Event	CSMEE Ministerial Opening, Plenary Session 1 and Breakout Sessions	CSMEE Ministerial Keynote Speech and Plenary Session 3
Evening	Cocktail Reception for SME and Entrepreneurship Stakeholder Dialogue Participants	Cocktail Reception for all CSMEE Ministerial Participants	Summary of the Ministerial Outcomes and Closing Statements

Proposed event structure

13:30 – 14:00 Registration and welcoming coffee

14:00 – 14:15 Opening Remarks

- OECD Deputy Secretary General
- *Business at OECD* (BIAC) Leadership

14:15-17:40 Panel discussions

Three successive panel discussions will allow a dynamic exchange of views among panelists and with the room. Each panel discussion could be moderated and involve 4 or 5 panelists (including a Minister, business organisations or networks, stakeholders in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and SME owners or entrepreneurs). The panelists would have 1' intro and 3' to answer a question. Then the floor would be open for discussion with the room (30').

14:15 – 15:15 Panel Discussion 1 - Navigating the Rapidly Changing Business Climate and building the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs

In recent years the international business climate has become increasingly volatile as witnessed most recently by the COVID-19 pandemics and rising commodity prices and supply chains disruptions, exacerbated by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In the face of this uncertainty and instability in the business climate, boosting the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs, who have been disproportionately affected, has become more important than ever. Whilst the private sector has an important role to play, so too does the enabling policy environment, and in particular public - private sector collaborations. This panel discussion provides an opportunity to discuss the key challenges ahead that need to be overcome to build the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs.

- New Zealand Minister
- Malaysia Minister
- Gabriel Petrus, Global Head, ICC Centres of Entrepreneurship
- SMEUnited Representative (TBC)
- Mark Burdon, Secretary General, World Pharmacy Council and SME owner
- SME Owner (TBC)

15:15 – 15:40 Coffee Break

15:40 – 16:40 Panel Discussion 2 – Mobilising SMEs and Entrepreneurs in the green and digital transformations

SMEs and entrepreneurs face major challenges and opportunities in the twin transition. In some ways, they lag behind their larger counterparts in the adoption of advanced IT technologies and in systematically measuring their environmental footprint. But some innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and small companies have captured niche markets in environmental and digital products and services. This panel discussion provides an opportunity to highlight, learn and share experiences from several successful SME case-studies where the uptake of digital and green tools have equipped SMEs and entrepreneurs to tackle new challenges and capitalise on emerging opportunities.

- Lithuania Minister
- Azerbaijan Minister
- BusinessEurope Representative
- Patrik Kovacs, Chair of Business at OECD SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee
- SME Owner (TBC)
- SME Owner (TBC)

16:40 – 17:40 Panel Discussion 3 – The Well-Being of SMEs and Entrepreneurs

The well-being of SME owners and entrepreneurs has been significantly impacted by recent shocks, threatening in turn the survival of many firms and jobs. Like the economic impacts of these shocks, well-being impacts are also disproportionate for smaller firms, not least as the support mechanisms and internal capacities to manage them are often lacking compared to larger firms. SME and entrepreneurship policies need to put small business owners and leaders at the centre, recognising the critical importance of well-being and mental health into consideration. This panel discussion will explore the impacts of the recurring crises on entrepreneurs well-being and the policies needed to alleviate the pressure on SMEs.

- Hungary Minister
- Non-OECD Country Minister
- IOE Representative
- SME Financing - Bank Representative
- Cecilia Wessinger, Director for Global Community, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)
- Alessandro Carnicella, CEO & Founder - Brand Partners Group
- SME Owner (TBC)

17:40-18:00 Conclusion & Closing Remarks

To be followed by a cocktail reception at the OECD