



INVESTMENT COMPACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE

South East Europe Investment Committee 3rd Meeting

SME Policy Index - Phase II

Paris, 23 May 2008

Investment Compact Activities in the Area of SME Policy

- Strategic partnership with the EC, the EBRD and the European Training Foundation.
- Focus on the Western Balkans, and link with the EU Small Enterprise Charter process.
- Close co-operation with the country National Charter Coordinators.
- Publication of the first SME Policy Index report in June 2007.

Innovation in SMEs

- Initiative launched in Nov. 2007 to respond to the priorities highlighted in the 2007 report.
- Partners: EC, EBRD, ETF + Central European Initiative and Science.SEE
- First phase:
 1. Fact findings: focus group report;
 2. Peer reviews (Albania, Dec 2007; Serbia, June 2008);
 3. Workshop in Montenegro (5-6 May 2008).

Innovation in SMEs

- Second phase:
 1. Link with the work conducted in the area by the OECD (STI, CFE, STD), EC (CIP) and Eurostat (innovation score board);
 2. Collect more evidence from companies in the Western Balkans;
 3. Develop sub-themes such as innovation financing, skill development, targeted policy tools.

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Assessment Process

Two parallel assessments:

- Self-assessment conducted by the government under the supervision of the National Charter Coordinator;
- External assessment conducted with the support of independent consultants and under the supervision of the OECD, the EC, the EBRD and the ETF.

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Methodology

Same methodology as for Phase I:

- Common update evaluation grid, based on 10 dimensions, sub-dimensions and 5 policy development levels;
- Need to maintain the same evaluation criteria in order to ensure comparability with the 2006 scores and be able to track progress;
- Close coordination with the IRI process and synergies with the MED Enterprise Policy Assessment.

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Structure of the 2009 Report

Three main parts:

1. Review of progress by dimension;
2. Competitiveness and Innovation Policies for SMEs in the Western Balkans;
3. Review of implementation of the Charter by countries, with identification of strong points and areas for progress.

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Timetable

June-September 2008

Assessment phase

Milestone: completion of the external and self assessments by 15 September 2008

September-October 2008

Bilateral meetings and synthesis of the two assessments

Milestone: cut off date for new information 31 October 2008

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Timetable

November-December 2008

Elaboration of country assessments and calculation of final scores

Milestone: Final scores set by 10 December 2008

December 2008

Meeting of the National Charter Coordinators to agree on final scores and country assessments

Milestone: Second workshop on competitiveness and innovation in SMEs

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Timetable

January-February 2009

Drafting of the *SME Policy Index 2009* report

Elaboration of the section on competitiveness and innovation policies

Milestone: final draft completed by 28 February 2009

March-April 2009

Internal reviews, editing and printing of the report

Milestone: report published by 30 April 2009

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Timetable

May-June 2009

Regional event to present the report and the results of the work on competitiveness and innovation