

Revised draft annotated agenda

7th Session of the Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)

5-6 November 2024, 9h30
Paris, France

The 7th Session of the Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE) will take place in person at the OECD Conference Centre (CC10). The session times are as follows:

- Tuesday 5 November 2024, 09:30-18:00 (Paris CET)
- Wednesday 6 November 2024, 09:15-13:00 (Paris CET)

OECD Member countries are invited to register for the meeting through their Permanent Delegations or directly on ONE M&P at [this link](#). Delegates from Non-Member countries and other organisations are invited to register through the Secretariat (CSMEE@oecd.org).

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JT03552793

Please note the meetings preceding and following the CSMEE Session:

- Monday, 4 November 2024: Annual Conference of the OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability – Register: [on-site participation](#) or [remote participation](#)
- Wednesday, 6 November (14:00-18:00): Workshop on Women entrepreneurs in global supply chains – Register: [on-site participation](#) or [remote participation](#)
- Thursday, 7 November (10:00-12:30): Meeting of the International SME and Entrepreneurship Policy Evaluation Discussion Network – Register: [on-site participation](#) or [remote participation](#)

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024

09:30-09:45

Item 1. Opening Session

[CFE/SME/A\(2024\)2/REV1](#)

[CFE/SME/M\(2024\)1/REV1](#)

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Approval of the revised draft annotated agenda and the Summary Record of the 6th Session.
- Updates on recent CFE and OECD work

For INFORMATION and APPROVAL of the draft agenda and summary records.

09:45-10:15

Item 2. Committee Management

- Designation of the CSMEE Bureau for 2025

For APPROVAL.

[CFE/SME\(2024\)11](#)

- Committee Progress Report – January 2023 – June 2024
- In-depth evaluation of the Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship

For INFORMATION.

10:15-12:00

Item 3. SME and Entrepreneurship Finance

10:15-11:00

Item 3.a. Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs: An OECD Scoreboard

[CFE/SME\(2024\)14](#)

The Secretariat will provide an update on its work in the area of SME and entrepreneurship financing, including the outcomes of the Informal Steering Group on SME Financing held in hybrid format on 10-11 September 2024. Delegates will be invited to discuss the new draft *2025 Policy Brief of the Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs: An OECD Scoreboard*, with a view to its finalisation.

For COMMENT with a view to FINALISATION.

Coffee Break 11:00-11:15

11:15-12:00

Item 3.b. Women entrepreneurs' access to finance[CFE/SME\(2024\)15](#)[CFE/SME\(2024\)16](#)

The Secretariat will provide an update on the OECD Gender Strategy, as well as on a new partnership with the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative to accelerate the collection of SME finance data by gender of the principal owner, for which the OECD will act as global data aggregator.

Delegates will be invited to review and comment on the draft report on *Entrepreneurship Policies through a Gender Lens: Access to Finance*. This report has been prepared as a follow up to the 2021 report [Entrepreneurship Policies through a Gender Lens](#).

For DISCUSSION and COMMENTS.

12:00-15:00

Item 4. The green transition of SMEs and entrepreneurs

12:00-12:45

Item 4.a. Financing SMEs for sustainability[CFE/SME\(2024\)13](#)

The Secretariat will update Delegates on the activities of the [OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability](#), including a new report on fostering convergence in financial institutions' sustainability reporting requirements for SMEs and on financial and non-financial support for SME greening. The session will also include a debrief on the Third Annual Conference of the Platform held on 4 November 2024.

For DISCUSSION and COMMENTS.*Lunch break 12:45-14:15*

14:15-15:00

Item 4.b. SME greening and green entrepreneurship in Portugal[CFE/SME\(2024\)12](#)

Delegates will be invited to discuss the draft report on 'The green transition of SMEs and green entrepreneurs in Portugal: Issues and Policies', which has been undertaken by the OECD in collaboration with Portugal's Ministry of Economy and with support from DG REFORM of the European Commission. The report presents and assesses SME greening and green entrepreneurship in Portugal which, like in other EU member states, are currently being supported through the national Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). In doing so, the report offers programme examples and policy lessons for other countries on how to ensure that SMEs and entrepreneurs benefit from green industrial policies.

For COMMENT with a view to FINALISATION.

15:00-16:45

Item 5. Entrepreneurship policy

15:00-15:45

Item 5.a. Pilot Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Benchmarking Tool[CFE/SME\(2024\)17](#)[CFE/SME\(2024\)18](#)

The Secretariat will present an update on CSME work on entrepreneurial ecosystem benchmarking at national level, following up the discussion of the concept note [CFE/SME\(2024\)7](#) at the April 2024 CSME meeting. Delegates will be invited to discuss and comment on a draft pilot report with first results of the benchmarking exercise and a technical working paper setting out the methodological choices taken for the development of the benchmarking.

For DISCUSSION and GUIDANCE.

Coffee break 15:45-16:00 (Family Photo)

16.00-16.30

Item 5.b. Policies for business incubation and acceleration

[CFE/SME\(2024\)19](#)

There is growing policy emphasis on promoting effective business incubation and acceleration for start-up and scale-up enterprises. Incubation and acceleration practices are evolving rapidly, for example with increasing numbers of facilities, greater emphasis on acceleration, more virtual services, increasing focus on sector or target group specific supports, as well as international soft landings. In this session, Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss a paper synthesising key messages from reports recently prepared by the Secretariat for the Governments of Korea, Ireland and Portugal, focusing on key trends, policy issues, and country policy practices in business incubation and acceleration. The paper will contribute to a report on policies for incubation and acceleration to be published in 2025.

For DISCUSSION and COMMENTS.

16:30-18:00

Item 6. SME and entrepreneurship policies in countries

16:30-17:30

Item 6.a. Country Review of SME and Entrepreneurship Policies in Egypt

[CFE/SME\(2024\)3](#)

The OECD country review of SME and entrepreneurship policies in Egypt is being conducted by the CSME, in the framework of the OECD country programme with Egypt. In this session the CSME will undertake the peer review of the draft report. High-level representatives of the Micro and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Agency (MSMEDA) of Egypt will present the context and policy challenges. The Secretariat will present the main findings from the draft report. Examiner countries will comment on the report findings and recommendations. Finally, an open discussion will cover the views of delegates on the findings and recommendations and lessons for or from their countries from the review.

For COMMENT with a view to FINALISATION.

17:30-18:00

Item 6.b. SME and Entrepreneurship Strategy in Mexico

Mexico will share with Delegates insights from the document “Mexican MSMEs: engine of our economy”, which highlights the crucial role of SMEs the Mexican economy and delineates a comprehensive strategy for SME development, designed by the Secretariat of Economy in collaboration with public agencies and Mexico’s business sector. The strategy takes into account rapid changes in the global context, including international trade and global value chains. Delegates will be invited to share views on the design and implementation of fit-for-future SME and entrepreneurship strategies, which engage broad consultation with public and private agents.

For INFORMATION.

Cocktail 18:00-19:30

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2024

09:15-10:45

Item 7. SMEs and industry mega trends

09:15-10:00

Item 7.a. FDI-SME linkages

[COM/CFE/SME/DAF/INV\(2024\)3](#)

Delegates will be invited to discuss the draft report on FDI-SME linkages in Poland, with a view to finalisation. The work has been undertaken under the aegis of the CSMEE and the Investment Committee, and in consultation with the Regional Development Policy Committee. It is part of Phase II of the FDI-SME ecosystems project, conducted in cooperation and with support of the European Commission (DG Regio). The work aims to provide national and subnational governments with policy recommendations on how to strengthen FDI-SME linkages and ecosystems to increase productivity and innovation spillovers to local economies and build resilience and sustainability in global value chains.

FOR DISCUSSION and COMMENTS.

10:00-10:45

Item 7.b. SMEs & new manufacturing

[CFE/SME\(2024\)6/REV1](#)

The Secretariat will present the draft report on “Fit-for-future manufacturing SMEs: effective policies for manufacturing transformation”. Against the background of new industrial policies, this project aims to examine recent trends in selected manufacturing industry and policy approaches toward manufacturing SMEs in selected countries. The study is being undertaken with the support of the Permanent Delegation of Korea to the OECD. It aims to inform and assist governments in designing SME and entrepreneurship policies that respond to industry mega trends such as digitalisation, green transition and reconfiguration of global value chains (GVCs), and ensure new industrial policies are inclusive of SMEs..

FOR DISCUSSION and COMMENTS.

Coffee break 10:45—11:00

11:00-12:50

Item 8. SME digitalisation and innovation uptake

11:00-11:30

Item 8.a. The twin transition and the future of retail SMEs in urban and rural areas

Delegates will be invited to discuss initial findings of the project "The twin transition and the future of retail SMEs in urban and rural areas", undertaken by the CSMEE in cooperation with the European Commission (DG GROW) and in collaboration with the Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Committee and the Working Party on Urban Policy (WPURB) of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC). The project aims in particular at investigating the medium- and long-term trends that impact the evolution of the retail sector, with a specific focus on SME digitalisation, e-commerce, and hybrid-retail practices.

For DISCUSSION and COMMENTS.

11:30-12:15

Item 8.b. Digital Security in SMEs and update on D4SME Global Initiative

As digitalisation advances, cybersecurity risks increase, and SMEs often lack the resources to implement adequate security measures. This vulnerability can make them the “weak link” in supply chains, impacting their business relationships with larger companies. To address this issue, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has introduced several policies over the years, including guidelines, checklists to self-assess and declare security measures, and all-in-one services to help SMEs implement essential security measures at a low cost. The presentation by METI will offer Delegates the opportunity to share views on cost-effective approaches to address the challenges encountered by SMEs to enhance their digital security.

The Secretariat will also provide an update on the activities of the [OECD Digital for SMEs \(D4SME\) Global Initiative](#), including the new edition of the D4SME survey, which covers digital skills and use of AI in SMEs, among others, and the draft 2025 Programme of Work for the Initiative.

Delegates will also be informed about progress in the development of the SME and Entrepreneurship Data Lake, which includes indicator and policy databases.

For INFORMATION and DISCUSSION.

12:15-12:45

Item 8.c. Innovation diffusion and SME uptake[The Geography of Higher Education in England and Wales](#)

SMEs often encounter barriers in accessing innovation services that suit their needs. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and innovation facilitators in local ecosystems can play a crucial role in delivering tailored support, but SMEs often lack the resources, skills, knowledge, or networks to fully leverage these opportunities. Based on a report undertaken by CFE with the UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology on the geography of higher education in England and Wales, Delegates will be invited to discuss key challenges for *innovation diffusion and uptake* by SMEs and entrepreneurs and the role that HEIs and *innovation intermediaries*—such as accelerators and research and technology organisations—can play to foster more accessible and relevant innovation services for SMEs. In particular, Delegates will be invited to share views on relevant work that the Committee may undertake in this area under its 2025-26 Programme of Work and Budget.

The Secretariat will also update Delegates on recent developments and activities of the [Entrepreneurship Education, Engagement, and Collaboration \(EECOLE\) Platform](#). This includes information about the upcoming Third EECOLE Roundtable, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 26-27 November 2024, with a focus on the theme of AI and Entrepreneurial Skills and Ecosystems.

For INFORMATION and DISCUSSION.

12:45-13:00

Item 9. Other business

Before closing the meeting, the Secretariat will invite Delegates to participate in a brief feedback survey and inform the group about upcoming events and next CSMEE dates.