

EU SME Policy: Success factors and good practices

Euro –Arab conference to support SMEs

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Role of the European Commission

SBA

- Coordinate action of Member States
 - § Follow-up of MS performance with the help of indicators and targets
 - § Good Practice exchange
- Provide support to SMEs
 - § Financial instruments
 - § Funding programmes
 - § Advisory and support services
- Ensure SME-friendly legislation

Various policies involved



A Small Business Act for Europe

- From the European Charter to the SBA
- 25 June 2008 Communication + Council Action Plan in Dec.
 - § A set of politically binding principles
 - § A package of concrete measures
 - § A monitoring mechanism, part of the Growth and Jobs strategy

in order to

1. Improve the overall policy approach to entrepreneurship
2. Irreversibly anchor the “Think Small First” principle in policy-making
3. Promote SMEs’ growth and competitiveness

The 10 principles of the SBA

1. **Entrepreneurship**
2. **2nd chance**
3. **“Think Small First”**
4. **Supportive public administration**
5. **Public procurement + state aid**
6. **Access to finance**
7. **Single Market**
8. **Skills and Innovation**
9. **Enable SMEs to tackle environmental challenges**
10. **Access external markets**

Better regulatory environment

- **Application of the « Think Small First » principle**
 - § SME test in impact assessments
 - § Specific measures
 - § Appointment of an SME Envoy
- **Regular involvement of stakeholders**
 - § Meetings with business organisations
 - § On-line consultations and SME panels
- **Reduction of administrative burden**
 - § Simplification of legislation
 - § Legal certainty and stability

Access to finance

- Facilitate bank lending
 - § Guarantee schemes
 - § Development of micro-credit
- Support to equity financing
 - § Development of risk capital
 - § Business angels
- Investment readiness programmes
- Paying invoices on time

Access to markets

- Easier access to public procurement:
 - § code of conduct
 - § awareness and training campaign
- Understanding and use of standards
- Networking and support
 - § Enterprise Europe Network
 - § Help desk for Intellectual Property Rights
- Coaching to SMEs going abroad
- Marketing skills, infrastructures, etc.

Not to forget ...

- Entrepreneurship education
- Improve the image of entrepreneurs (SME Week)
- Encourage innovation in SMEs
 - § Clusters
 - § Technology transfer
- Turning into a green economy
 - § Energy efficiency
 - § Environment management systems

Where to find good practices ?

- SBA Conference
 - § Madrid, 31th May – 1st June
 - § European Enterprise Awards
- Expert groups reports
- Database
- Report on the Euro Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise

Euro-Med industrial cooperation

- Objectives

- § Exchange views with MED countries on enterprise and industrial policies

- § Facilitate their uptake of good practices by MED countries

- § EuroMed area of shared prosperity

- Process

- § Ministerial meeting every two years

- § 2-year Work Programme

2009-2010 Work programme

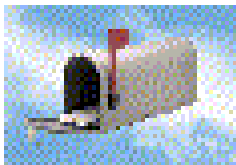
- Euro Med Charter for Enterprises (2004)
 - § 10 Objectives
 - § Monitoring at national level and benchmarking based on 77 indicators (with OCDE, ETF and EIB)
 - § Evolution towards the SBA
- Investment promotion
- Exchange of industrial goods (ACAAs)
- Innovation
- Sectoral dialogue on textile
- Sustainable enterprise development

The SME Support Programme (SSP)

- Bilateral EU – Syria project
- 15 Mio Euros
- Key services for SMEs, such as:
 - § Training, mentoring and consultancy
 - § Access to finance
 - § Capacity building
- Further development on the basis of the SBA objectives and actions

Info & Contacts

- SME Portal
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme/index_en.htm
- SBA
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sba_en.htm
- Enterprise Europe Network
http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
- Good practice database:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/charter/gp
- Enterprise and Industry Directorate General – Euro Med coop
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/international/promoting-neighbourhood/mediterranean/index_en.htm



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Thank you !