COSME – EU policy for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in practice

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EU SME Policy - framework

- **Blueprint: Small Business Act for Europe (SBA)**
- **In cooperation and partnership with the EU Member States**

The "Small Business Act"

- **Main objective: create a common framework for SME initiatives and implement the "Think Small First" principle**

- **Ten principles within four priority areas:**
  - *smart regulation*
  - *access to finance*
  - *access to markets*
  - *entrepreneurship*

- **Ukraine has undertaken Small Business Act assessement and will follow its recommendations**

EU SME Policy: 'financial arm'

EU Support Programmes, including:

- **COSME (€2.3 billion for 2014 – 2020)**

  supports participating countries to coordinate and enhance their policies and actions

- **SME dimension in other EU programmes:**
  - *Horizon 2020 (including SME Instrument and collaborative research)*
  - *European Structural and Investment Funds*

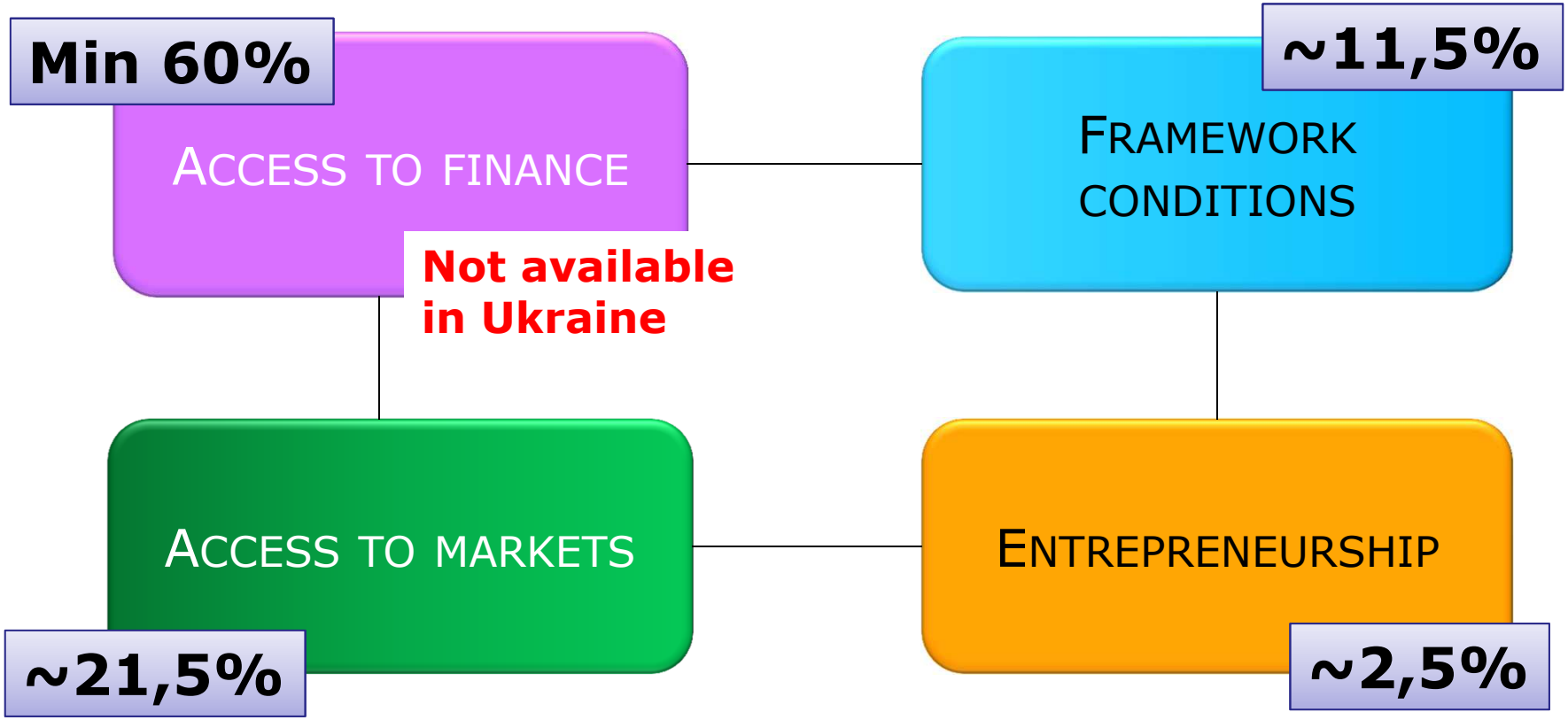
Ukraine:

- *Associated to the EU-Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon2020' since 2015*
- *Participates in the 'Competitiveness of SMEs Programme' (COSME) – pending ratification*

So:

- *Ukraine contributes to the budget (proportionally to 'economic weight')*
- *Ukrainian ministries are part of the programme administration (Programme Committee)*
- *Ukrainian entities can participate in equal terms*

COSME specific objectives



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Understanding the COSME programme's focus

Why does COSME hardly provide opportunities for enterprises to apply – but Horizon 2020 does ?

Types of responsibility of the Union

Exclusive competence	Shared competence	EU coordinates MS policies	EU supports MS
• Customs union • Trade policy • Maritime resources	• **Research – right to have own programmes** • Internal market • Agriculture / fisheries • Cohesion	• Economic policy – (special rules for Euro countries) • Social policy	• **Industrial policy** • Tourism • Vocational training

DG GROWTH

Very different competences for EU in policies relevant for SMEs. Everything for trade and customs can be responded from Brussels. For research EU has own programme; for industrial policy 'support to MS'.

What types of actions are undertaken?

Service provided to SMEs

by a local service provider in each region (Enterprise Europe Network Ukraine)

by a specialised body (EU-Japan Centre, IPR enforcement China)

Public information for policy development

Databases, Observatories (cluster observatory, nanotechnology observatory)

Studies (Small Business Act review document for each country)

Call for joint activities of participating countries entities

Cluster partnership for internationalisation, Joint events by export promotion agencies

Entrepreneurs mobility programme (Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs)

Other (conferences etc.)