

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
CONTRIBUTING TO A GLOBAL EFFORT

OECD SME AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ANALYSIS SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

Greening SMEs in the EaP

30 June 2021

Stephan Raes, Policy Analyst (stephan.raes@oecd.org)

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

SMEs have been at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic

Across the world, 180 SME surveys show...



Over 70-80% of SMEs experienced a strong drop in revenue of between 30-50%

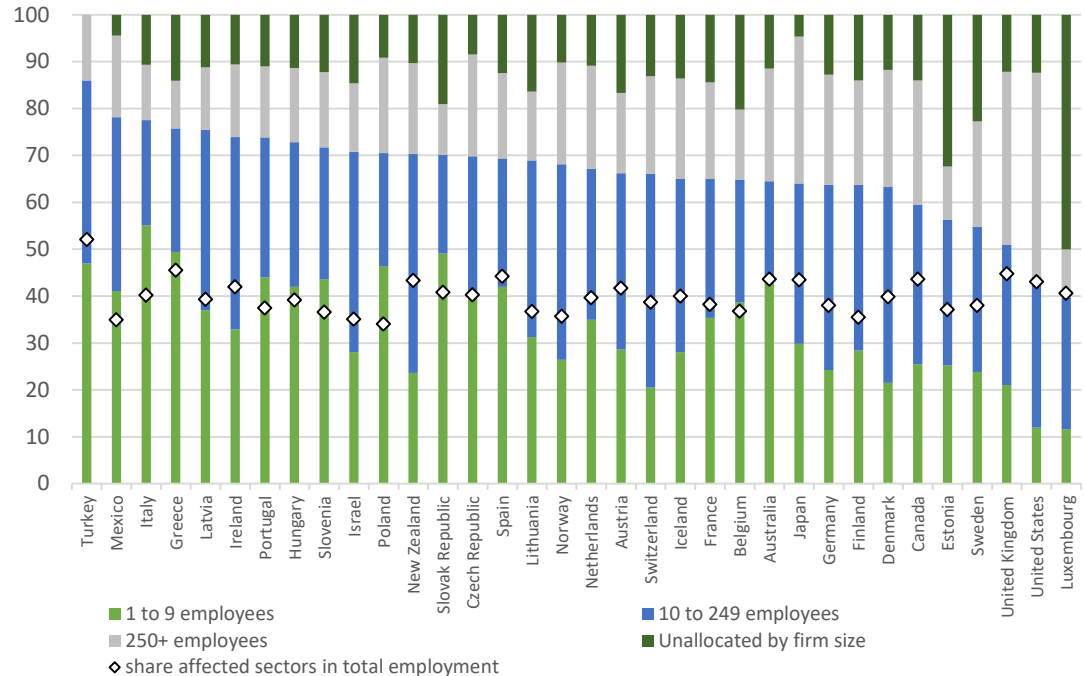


40% of SMEs stopped operating during the pandemic



SME confidence has collapsed since the start of the pandemic. 20-30% still feel at risk being put out of business in less than three months.

Share of employment in the most adversely affected sectors by firm size (%)



Source: OECD Annual National Accounts and Structural Business Statistics databases, OECD calculations.

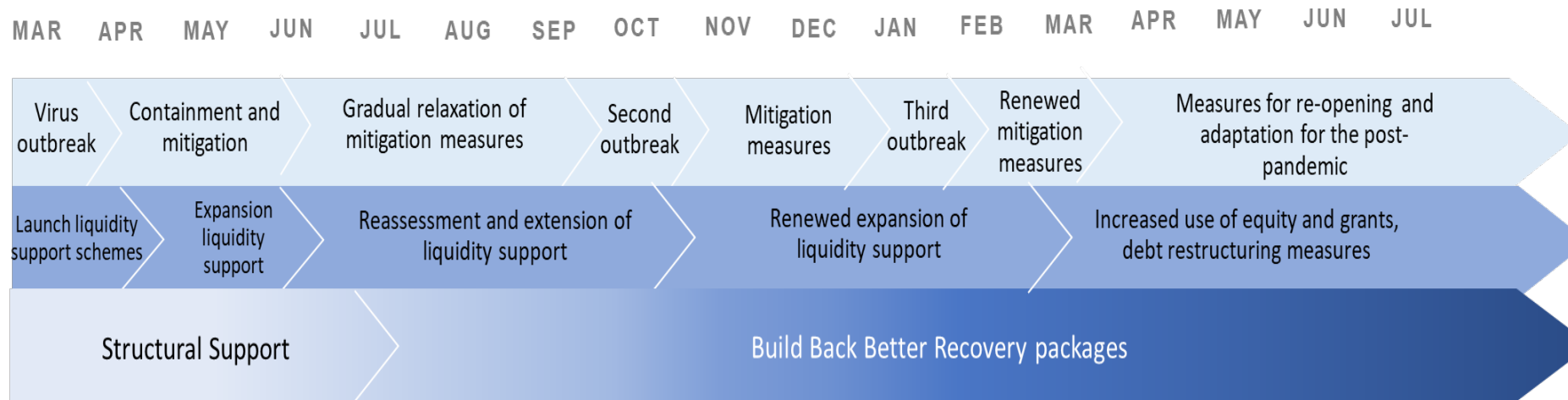


With the impact of the pandemic at centre stage in the PWB

- [One year of SME and entrepreneurship policy responses to COVID-19: Lessons learned to build back better](#)
- [SME and Entrepreneurship Outlook 2021](#)
- [Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs. An OECD Scoreboard, Special edition 2020](#)



And strong renewed policy focus on SMEs and entrepreneurship



From WP to Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship



15 Lessons learned to build back better...

1

Ensure rapid, accountable and effective delivery

6

Avoid SME debt overhang exploring equity support

11

Improve resilience of SMEs and startups

2

Focus in viable firms and start-ups

7

Prepare exit strategies of liquidity measures

12

Strengthen forward looking capacity of SMEs

3

Reboot startup policies

8

Support second-chance entrepreneurship

13

Ensure inclusive multi-level governance tools

4

Reach vulnerable segments of SMEs

9

Think small first in the recovery programmes

14

Ensure representativeness of SMEs in decision-making

5

Rethink policy approach to self-employed

10

Include digitalization as cornerstone to recovery

15

Monitor and evaluate SME policy responses



Think small first in recovery packages

	Digitalisation	Greening
Belgium	Support SMEs and cybersecurity, skills	SMEs in Circular economy
Denmark	SME Digital Transition and Exports	-
Finland	Fostering links between small and larger firms	SMEs and hydrogen
France	Dedicated support MSME digitalisation	Dedicated support MSME greening
Germany	Focus automotive, Mittelstand Digital	SME Innovative for resource efficiency
Greece	Including SMEs in support programmes for digital transformation, skills, innovation	-
Italy	Transizione 4.0, skills	Supporting SMEs and start-ups in eco-innovation
Lithuania	Support digital capabilities start-ups	Fostering eco-innovation start-ups
Poland	Support for SME teleworking and blockchain	SMEs in Circular economy
Portugal	Targeted support SME digitalisation and e-commerce	-
Slovenia	Various targeted measures on SME digital capacities, links SMEs/start-ups and large firms and procurement	Various targeted measures to support SMEs (cooperation with EEI, adoption EMS, awareness, energy efficient buildings etc.
Spain	SME Digitalisation Plan, with various measures to support SMEs in skills, cyber	SMEs and hydrogen



Twin transitions: SMEs and net zero

- SMEs account for 60-70% of GHG emissions and industrial waste...
- ...and can contribute significantly to eco-innovation
- Lack of data and clarity on (drivers of) SME greening
- Support for SME greening central position in the EU SME Strategy but different approaches in SME&E policies across EU/OECD countries

Two projects:

- What policies are best suited to support green entrepreneurship and the SME transition to net zero?
- SMEs and sustainable finance



Twin transitions: SMEs and digitalisation

- Although COVID-19 has provided a strong push for SME digitalisation, in particular e-commerce...
- ...SMEs continue to lag behind in the adoption of digital technologies...
- ...and face significant challenges (cyber security)
- Governments have increasingly included measures for SME digitalisation in support packages...
- ...but will these sufficiently take the different needs of the heterogeneous SME population into account?

Projects and products:

- [Digital for SMEs Global Initiative](#)
- [Digital Transformation of SMEs](#)
- [Digital and diagnostic tools for SMEs](#)
- [Enhancing SME resilience through digitalisation](#)



What is next? The OECD SME and Entrepreneurship Strategy

=> Helping countries navigate SME&E policies post COVID-19



=> **Guiding principles (draft Fall 2021)**



=> **Practical and operational toolkit**



Further new and upcoming publications

- [Entrepreneurship policies through a gender lens](#) (June 2021)
- [Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs. An OECD Scoreboard](#) (new edition early 2022)
- [The Missing Entrepreneurs. Policies for Inclusive Entrepreneurship](#) (new edition October 2021)
- [In-depth analysis of SME and Entrepreneurship policies to COVID-19](#) (May 2021)
- [Trade Finance for SMEs](#) (May 2021)
- [Business advice for entrepreneurship and small firms](#) (March 2021)



TACKLING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
CONTRIBUTING TO A GLOBAL EFFORT

Thank you

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr>

