

Summary of SMEs field (descriptive, quantifiable criteria)

General business material In all participating nations, SMEs¹ comprise the vast bulk of all enterprises; the numbers given for their share array from c. 80% (Italy) to c. 99% (Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland). Within the EU as a whole, the share often tends to be at the greater end. In the 'brand-new' participant states, in particular, micro-sized enterprises with as much as nine staff members make up a large component within the group of SMEs all at once.

- The SMEs' share in the labor force (EU typical c. 67%) is plainly reduced, due to the loved one weight of bigger firms, but still SMEs provide for a majority of employees, e.g. c. 60% in Austria as well as Germany, c. 70% in Slovakia and Hungary as well as c. 80% in Italy.
- The SMEs' share in included value/GDP development (EU ordinary c. 58%) is relatively low in the Czech Republic (c. 35%) as well as Slovakia (c. 42%), Poland (c. 50%) and also Germany (53%) but gets to varieties of c. 70% in Italy.
- Typically, those industries with the biggest importance of SMEs for nationwide revenue are trade, tourist, building & structure, and various type of 'second' solutions for services, e.g. in real estate monitoring.

In some nations like Italy, farming, too, plays an essential role below. Especially in Germany, there is a relative a great deal of middle-sized business with a labor force between 250 as well as 500 individuals that are not SMEs according to the EU meaning, but are across the country considered "Mittelstand" (literally "middle class"), a sort of 'huge SMEs', typically playing an important duty within the nationwide economic climate.

As a result, they are qualified for different sort of national state support tailored at "SMEs".

This particular traditional framework is also a reason why in Germany (and also essentially additionally in Austria) the 'real' SMEs are much less dominant for the total photo than in the various other partner nations. In this manner, the target team of "SMEs" is larger as well as likewise comprises larger firms, which from a European viewpoint can move the focus of policy planning and support measures. 2.

Branch structures/degree of combination Chambers of commerce, enterprises' networks and also branch organizations essentially work, among other things, as communication channels between their participants (with couple of exceptions including SMEs) and also other crucial economic players, including the federal government.

This is an encouraging aspect for the assimilation of SMEs in the policy-planning procedure, functioning both means: SMEs requirements are registered and also communicated to the policy-making degree, while intended or established plans are brought to the expertise of SMEs that typically have problem getting necessary info on their own. Worrying the concern of

1 Adhering to the recommended definition by the European Commission of 1 January 2005, cf. 6
Cleanser Manufacturing, this is of special significance given that throughout the programme region many SMEs are not completely aware of this issue, be it regarding their very own contribution to air pollution, details of lawful needs or existing policies.

The portion of SMEs having a subscription in single-interest group differs within the programme area

In Germany for instance, the membership in chambers of business or knowledgeable crafts is compulsory for every single company. Additionally, most of enterprises are participants of branch-related companies (see Point 3). Therefore, business have a reasonably strong entrance hall and are able to exert influence on political decisions.

An indication for SMEs' ability for activity is, to which level their networks as well as branch associations are developed in the country and have actually joint or fused pressures for the objective of voicing SMEs' rate of interests. In that feeling, the level of combination appears to be instead various throughout the program area.

- One variable here is whether there are specific SMEs organizations set apart from larger business' depictions; on the whole, this phenomenon is unusual.
- This seems to rely on one hand on the grown up structures of an offered economic climate-- including the historical time business have actually needed to arrange themselves freely-- however additionally on the size of an economic climate as well as the general structures of social organisation.

So, it is no coincidence that in Germany the government structure of the state is somehow mirrored by the Chambers and also numerous company associations. Furthermore, just right here can be located a specific association of SMEs, the Bundesverband mittelständische Wirtschaft (BVMW); yet even this set stands for only a small portion of SMEs.

The plainly extra typical pattern of organisation in all nations of the area is branchrelated. This implies that many business, consisting of SMEs, join on premises of topical technological resemblance as opposed to on grounds of company size. It is then a matter of inner autonomous administration as well as passion negotiating that SMEs can stabilize the weight of bigger business.

SMEs' assumptions from membership differ depending upon the duty they credit their associations:

While every one of them offer numerous services to their members, in some countries like Germany they are in the first place expected to be pressure groups. In Poland, some associations comply with the very same strategy as their German counterparts-- with a rather energetic method to interest representation and a focus on internal technique-- while others prefer an 'Anglo-Saxon', extra liberal version.

Particularly Slovenia, Germany as well as Austria reveal a well created texture as well as task of organizations as well as chambers: In Slovenia, the national Chamber of Business and Sector and the Chamber of Crafts make up and stand for most SMEs; both have inner boards dealing inter alia with environmental/Cleaner Manufacturing issues.

- In Germany and also Austria there is a comprehensive structure of mostly branch-related organizations and Chambers that has more than decades become a prominent setting within the corporatist national policy-making system.
- One more important sort of organization that works both in the residential and also the global context are technology systems. Right here, the EU policy structure applies significant influence.

Instances with significance for the program region are 7 - at EU degree: International Scientific Network for Environmental Technologies (ENVITECH) - at national level: Gloss System on Environmental Technologies; Slovene Innovation Platform on Water.

In some of the previously Communist countries-- except Slovenia-- self-organisation as well as networking of SMEs seem lagging behind the general financial development. The reason for this is frequently bad memories of forced subscription in the associations of the Communist era as well as resulting distrust versus any kind of sort of delegated power.

In Hungary, SMEs insurance claim that they do not have the time needed for organization job.

In Poland, on the other hand, the low rate of SMEs subscription in company organizations is equally owed to the weak setting of trade unions considering that this way there is much less demand for a weight. 3. Placement of SMEs concerning eco-innovation and also environmental policy Virtually universally throughout the program region, several SMEs are not familiar with or ignore the influence of their task on the atmosphere.

This is because of their mainly little size and rather autistic perspective along with to minimal knowledge of their legal responsibilities. Even when ventures choose to introduce Cleaner Production technologies, they do so mainly out of a financial motivation as opposed to an authentic rate of interest in the atmosphere;

Nevertheless, this financial passion is one of the main levers the EU and also federal governments utilize to improve SMEs' compliance with environmental criteria. Advancements in SMEs-- consisting of eco-innovations-- are launched clearly more often in bigger, i.e. medium-sized SMEs. This shows that a bigger labor force (with its abilities, experience and R&D calls) along with larger equity capital can foster such steps.