

Dear colleagues,

The General Secretariat for Industry is undertaking the initiative of issuing informative newsletters on a regular basis, with the aim of highlighting and presenting the work of the National Observatory for SMEs. These newsletters provide news, analyses, and the latest developments in the field of entrepreneurship, serving as a valuable source of information for SMEs and the wider institutional and business ecosystem.

Our mission is to upgrade the quality of public policy design for SMEs by providing data-driven, evidence-based policy recommendations based on data.

With this initiative, SMEs can benefit at all stages of their entrepreneurial activities with valuable information and analyses.

This new means of communication will keep you informed about our efforts and the challenges we face, within a process of ongoing interaction on matters concerning SMEs.

Evidence-based public policies for SMEs

Key objectives:

- Provision of reliable data, studies, and research on trends and prospects of SMEs in all sectors.
- Improvement of the quality of services provided by the General Secretariat for Industry.
- Coordination of existing support agencies for SMEs at central and regional level.
- Analysis of the SMEs demography to shape targeted policy proposals.
- Utilization of data and information to formulate proposals and legislative initiatives for institutional support of entrepreneurship.
- Information dissemination and enhancement of businesses competitiveness.

The National Observatory covers a wide range of thematic fields and activities, contributing to the overall development and strengthening of SMEs.

To achieve its purpose, the Observatory consists of distinct Subprojects, each pursuing different objectives.

SUBPROJECT 1

SMEs constitute the backbone of entrepreneurship globally, contributing significantly to added-value, employment, and internationalization. Monitoring the trends in SMEs (product, size, investments, labour productivity, internationalization, innovation, digital transformation, etc.), as well as interventions aimed at their improvement, remain crucial factors for medium-term growth. Furthermore, large enterprises within an economy are interconnected with smaller ones, forming value chains, as well as with businesses from abroad.

Currently, Subproject 1, "Competitiveness Reports, Status, and Prospects of SMEs in Greece 2013-2022," is in progress, expected to be concluded in October 2023.

The objective of Subproject 1 is to prepare Annual Competitiveness Reports for selected sectors of the Greek economy for the years 2013-2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The main goal is to establish systematic monitoring and documenting of SMEs competitiveness in Greece and provide evidence-based public policy recommendations considering national, European, and international frameworks such as the Small Business Act (SBA).

Specifically, the project aims to:

- Map the entrepreneurial activity, considering its spatial and sectoral dimension from 2013 to 2022, as well as existing networks and clusters.
- Outline the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of SMEs, including indicators such as employment, educational level, human resources skills, added value, exports, fixed capital formation, economic activity indicators, technology level, innovation, legal form.
- Identify the consequences and impacts of economic fluctuations on the functioning and development of SMEs.
- Present the regulatory environment for entrepreneurship, in Greece, Europe and internationally (support actions, incentives, good practices).
- Identify the specific and critical characteristics of the operations and functioning of SMEs in our country to develop targeted action directions through long-term monitoring and analysis of their evolution.
- Explore the prospects, capabilities, and competitive advantages of dynamic sectors, branches, and networks.
- Extract well-documented conclusions and policy proposals for designing and implementing measures to support entrepreneurship and competitiveness of SMEs, within the framework of national and European policies.

The implementation of Subproject 1 includes:

1. Secondary research/desk research with an extensive literature review and the collection and analysis of secondary data from reliable state, scientific, and business information sources within and outside Greece.
2. Primary research and sector-specific studies using questionnaires on a representative sample of SMEs and productive entities.
3. Specialized research using questionnaires on a representative sample of SMEs and productive entities in priority thematic axes of the European Union's Small Business Act (SBA).
4. In-depth analysis of 15 selected sectors (two-digit NACE codes), which are either the most vulnerable or emerging and highly competitive sectors requiring state support, especially if they contribute significantly to regional or national development or are transitioning towards the new green and digital era.

The project is ongoing, and its results will be presented upon completion.

 National Observatory
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

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