



BUSINESS_{at}OECD

Business and Industry Advisory
Committee to the OECD

SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee 2025 Activity Update

Activity update
December 2025

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SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee

Committee Context

Established in 1962, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) is the officially recognised institutional business voice at the OECD. It brings together national business and employer federations, as well as sectoral associations, from across OECD member and partner economies to provide private sector perspectives to OECD policy discussions. Through structured engagement, *Business at OECD* contributes evidence-based input and practical insights to support the development of effective, forward-looking public policies.

On SMEs, the OECD is a global leader of statistics, forecasts, and evidence-based policy recommendations. Its publications, such as *SME and Entrepreneurship Outlook*, *SME digitalisation to “Build Back Better”*, are closely followed by policymakers and industry.

The OECD has strongly contributed to the G20 SME agenda, in particular with regards to SME finance, with the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on SME Financing and the report on G20/OECD Effective Approaches for Implementing the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on SME Financing, or through its contribution to platforms like the Global Forum on Green Finance and Investment.

The work of our *Business at OECD* SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee enables private sector representatives to participate in high-level OECD sessions and regular policy meetings, exchange and network with governments and OECD leadership, access information and contribute to OECD policy recommendations, and build momentum with private sector peers to impact policy-making at all stages.

This activity report provides selected year highlights of the *Business at OECD* SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee in 2025, and

includes a list of Committee releases and sessions. In line with the OECD’s priorities and the efforts of many others in our Committees, our activities in 2025 focused on aligning core issues of the Committee with SMEs twin transition with digitalization and green, among other important entrepreneurship topics.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

In 2025, as the world continues to navigate a complex global landscape shaped by technological transformation, evolving geopolitical dynamics, and climate imperatives, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remain at the forefront of both opportunity and vulnerability. While many SMEs are still working to regain full pre-pandemic operational strength, the economic environment shows continued signs of recovery, with improvements in turnover, employment, and investment in innovation.

Over the past year, the *Business at OECD* (BIAC) SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee maintained its strong focus on the twin transitions (digital and green), which are crucial for enhancing SME resilience and long-term competitiveness. Digital transformation is enabling SMEs to scale innovation and operational efficiency, while the integration of advanced technologies, such as additive manufacturing and virtual twins, is accelerating their industrial evolution. At the same time, green transformation remains essential, not only to meet climate goals but also to enhance energy security and sustainability in an increasingly volatile geopolitical context.

As an international organization, we reaffirm our shared responsibility to advocate for effective, inclusive, and trusted policies that help SMEs adapt and thrive. In 2025, we actively engaged in key events such as the OECD SME Committee, where we launched our 2025 Priorities Paper titled "Empowering SMEs: Securing Competitiveness for Our Economies." This paper provides business recommendations to the OECD Committee. We also continued our longstanding collaboration with the OECD through expert workshops, strategic dialogues, and policy-shaping reports. We also reinforced our partnership in the OECD Digital for SMEs (D4SME) initiative, helping advance solutions that ensure SMEs remain agile and future-ready. Also, in 2025, we were proud to attend

for the first time the OECD Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening Regional Policy for Resilient Places, in Warsaw, Poland. This milestone engagement highlights our commitment to contributing to a place-based policy approach that strengthens the link between SMEs, regional resilience, and inclusive economic development.

Furthermore, our SME Committee played a pivotal role in the historic B20 South Africa process as Co-Chair of the Trade and Investment Task Force, working closely with global leaders and the African business community to advance more inclusive policies and a more enabling ecosystem for SMEs across Africa and worldwide; our key messages were subsequently highlighted and presented at the WTO Forum in Geneva, underscoring that SMEs require highlighted attention and targeted support on all continents and in both developing and developed economies.

Looking ahead, we will build on this momentum by deepening our cooperation with the OECD and member governments. A key new initiative will be the launch of a biannual policy priorities paper, allowing us to more regularly spotlight the evolving challenges and opportunities facing SMEs and to provide timely input to OECD work.

Together, we remain committed to fostering the conditions for SMEs to grow, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to a sustainable and inclusive global economy.



Patrik Kovács

Business at OECD SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee Chair

Overview of 2025 Activities

April

In April, a *Business at OECD* delegation led by our Committee Chair Patrick Kovacs attended the Spring session of the **OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee (CSMEE)**, where we discussed key country trends and policies, including Czechia's SME Strategy, FDI-SME linkages in the Baltics, and emerging priorities across nations. We discussed the access to sustainable finance for SMEs, and discussions highlighted the importance of equipping SMEs with the tools and capacities to measure and report their sustainability performance. Discussions also emphasize the role of digital technologies in facilitating access to sustainable finance. These insights reinforced our commitment to advancing practical solutions that enable SMEs to contribute to and benefit from the green transition.



(Our Committee Chair Patrik Kovacs alongside, Martina Le Gall Maláková, our Committee Vice-Chair, Rokas Morkunas, our Secretariat lead, and Italy's Deputy Minister of Enterprise and Made, Mr. Valentino Valentini, at the D4SME High Level Roundtable, April 2025)

A large business delegation also contributed to the **OECD High-Level Roundtable of the Digital for SMEs (D4SME) Global Initiative**, which focused on Boosting SME Competitiveness through Digital and AI Adoption. We contributed to discussions on key work areas such as SME finance, the sustainable and digital transitions, AI adoption, and the evaluation of SME and entrepreneurship policies. Patrik Kovacs, our SME and Entrepreneurship Committee Chair,

delivered concluding remarks, underlining how digitalization for SMEs is no longer an option, but a necessity.

Also in April, we contributed to the **OECD International SME and Entrepreneurship Evaluation Discussion Network Meeting**, where our delegation discussed SMEs growth performance, evaluation and effectiveness of SMEs policy.

May

In May, a business delegation led by our Committee Chair Patrik Kovacs contributed to the **OECD Regional Policy Ministerial Meeting** on Strengthening Regional Policy for Resilient Places, in Warsaw, Poland. Alongside our Polish member federation Lewiatan, we intervened on different topics, including leveraging regional development policies to boost competitiveness, digital transition to foster competitiveness, and support investment for regional development, among others.



(Hanni Rosenbaum, Patrik Kovacs, and Artur Mazurkiewicz at the OECD Regional Policy Ministerial Meeting, May 2025)

November

In November, our *Business at OECD* delegation attended the **Fourth Annual Conference of the OECD Platform on**

Financing SMEs for Sustainability. The conference brought together stakeholders from across the sustainable finance ecosystem to explore how public and private support can help SMEs advance sustainability in a rapidly evolving global context.

The event featured the launch of a new OECD report and showcased innovative practices, sector-specific solutions, and digital tools aimed at strengthening SME resilience and competitiveness.

Also in November, we contributed to the fall session of the **OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)**, where our Chair Patrik Kovacs presented our new flagship publication [Empowering SMEs: Securing Competitiveness for our Economies](#) at the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship.



(Our SMEs Committee Chair Patrik Kovacs at the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, November 2025)

This paper, released in the context of the preparation of the OECD's new Programme of Work and Budget, presents our members' priorities to enhance SMEs' competitiveness and economic impact and was designed to guide OECD's future work on small and medium-sized enterprises. Key messages from our paper, among others, include simplifying regulation and administrative processes to allow SMEs to focus on growth and innovation, supporting SMEs in the green and digital transitions, and strengthening investment and entrepreneurship ecosystems.

On 18 November, *Business at OECD* organized a B20 full day official side-event, titled **OECD Impact, B20 Drive: The Business**

at OECD Nexus, where our Committee Chair Patrik Kovas, also co-Chair of B20 Task Force, moderated a panel on Open Markets, Resilient Food Systems. We were joined by global business leaders, international organisations, and G20/B20 delegates to advance private-sector priorities, bringing together around 150 senior representatives.



(Panel 1 at our side event to the B20 Summit on "Open Markets, Resilient Food Systems" included South African Breweries (SAB)'s Richard (Boris) Rivett-Carnac, our Food and Agriculture Committee Chair Metin Akman, Bayer's Debra Mallowah, and our SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee Chair Patrik Kovacs).

In December, *Business at OECD* took part in the **OECD Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Diagnostics Technical Workshop**. The session focused on the future development of the OECD's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Diagnostics tool, following the launch of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Diagnostics Report in June 2025. Our participation allowed us to exchange views on how this tool can better support policymakers and businesses in fostering dynamic entrepreneurial environments.

Also in December, we participated in the **OECD Digital for SMEs (D4SME)** Knowledge event, which focused on "Strengthening SME Digital Security in the Age of AI". As a network partner of the initiative, we contributed to discussions on what digital security means for smaller firms in an AI-driven context.

Calendar of 2025

In 2025, our SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee engaged consistently across the OECD's SME policy calendar. *Business at OECD* participated in the bi-annual meetings of the Committee for SMEs (CSMEE) and its related events. These engagements marked key moments for advancing business input throughout the year and strengthening dialogue with policymakers.



9-10 April	OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)
11 April	OECD High-Level Roundtable on Digital for SMEs (D4SME)
29-30 April	OECD Committee on Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)
19-20 May	OECD Regional Policy Ministerial Meeting in Warsaw, Poland
10-11 September	CSMEE Informal Steering Group on SME and Entrepreneurship Financing
4-7 November	OECD Committee on Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)
5 November	Annual Conference of the OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability
6-7 November	OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)
18 November	<i>Business at OECD</i> Side-event to the B20 Summit Johannesburg, South Africa
8 December	OECD Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Diagnostics Technical Workshop
16 December	OECD D4SME Knowledge Event on Strengthening SME Digital Security in the Age of AI

Committee Leadership

Chair

Patrik Kovács

Hungarian National Association of
Entrepreneurs and Employers (VOSZ)
(Hungary)

Vice Chair

Martina Le Gall Maláková

National Union of Employers - RUZ (Slovak
Republic)

Vice Chair

Torbjörn Halldin

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
(Sweden)

Vice Chair

Guy Primrose

Suasor Commercial Consultants (Australia)



(Participants of the 6th D4SME High-Level Roundtable, April 2025)

Business at OECD (BIAC) National Members

Australia	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
Austria	Federation of Austrian Industries (IV)
Belgium	Federation of Belgian Enterprises (VBO FEB)
Canada	Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Chile	Confederation of Production and Commerce of Chile (CPC)
Colombia	National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI)
Costa Rica	Union of Chambers and Associations of the Private Business Sector (UCCAEP)
Costa Rica	Chamber of Industries of Costa Rica (CICR)
Czech Republic	Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (SP)
Denmark	Danish Employers' Confederation (DA)
Denmark	Confederation of Danish Industry (DI)
Estonia	Estonian Employers' Confederation
Finland	Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK)
France	Movement of the Enterprises of France (MEDEF)
Germany	Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA)
Germany	Federation of German Industries (BDI)
Greece	Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)
Hungary	Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (MGYOSZ)
Hungary	National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers (VOSZ)
Iceland	Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise (SA)
Ireland	Ibec (Irish Business and Employers Confederation)
Israel	Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI)
Italy	The Association of Italian Joint Stock Companies (Assonime)
Italy	General Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria)
Italy	Italian Banking Insurance and Finance Federation (FeBAF)
Japan	Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
South Korea	Federation of Korean Industries (FKI)
Latvia	Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK)
Lithuania	Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (LPK)
Luxembourg	FEDIL - The Voice of Luxembourg's Industry
Mexico	Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic (COPARMEX)
Netherlands	Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW)
New Zealand	BusinessNZ
Norway	Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO)
Portugal	Confederation of Portuguese Business (CIP)
Poland	Polish Confederation Lewiatan
Slovakia	National Union of Employers (NUE)
Slovenia	Association of Employers of Slovenia (ZDS)
Spain	Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE)
Sweden	Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
Switzerland	economiesuisse - Swiss Business Federation
Switzerland	Swiss Employers Confederation
Türkiye	Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TISK)
Türkiye	Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB)
Türkiye	Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSIAD)
United Kingdom	Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
United States	United States Council for International Business (USCI)



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Established in 1962, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) is the officially recognised institutional business voice at the OECD. We stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to economic growth, sustainable development, and societal prosperity. Through *Business at OECD*, national business and employers' federations representing over 10 million companies provide perspectives to cutting-edge OECD policy debates that shape market-based economies and impact global governance. Our expertise is enriched by the contributions of a wide range of international sector organisations.

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