

Feedback from South Mediterranean countries on the implementation of the 2018-2020 work programme on industrial cooperation

Chapter 1. Improving the business climate, and promoting policies for entrepreneurship and MSME development, including access to finance

- In certain countries the Central Bank plays an important role in promoting MSMEs, for example by encouraging commercial banks to establish specialised units dedicated to MSMEs and by supporting specific initiatives in strategic sectors for the South Mediterranean region, namely tourism.
- New laws on bankruptcy and crowdfunding have been approved.
- Public financial support to MSMEs has been provided.
- The adoption of a unified definition for MSMEs was reported.
- Development agencies responsible for the development of the MSME and entrepreneurship have been created.

Chapter 2. Encouraging internationalisation and export of MSMEs, promoting innovation and clusters cooperation, and the use of available tools and networks

- Creation of clusters in sectors like agriculture and tourism.

- Establishment of business deals, partnership agreements and technology transfer and internationalization through export activities.

Chapter 3. Establishing a large pan-Euro-Mediterranean market for industrial products (ACAA)

- Only one country reported the harmonization of their standards with relevant EU standards in two sectors.

Chapter 4. Promoting policies for job creation and social economy

- Publication of laws in the social and solidarity economy.
- Design and implementation of a project to enhance the participation of women in public life.