



2nd Round of the SBA Assessment – Rationale and Objectives

**SME Panel,
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Reminder: Targets of the SME Panel for the coming 4 years

To enhance economic relations and to improve the business environment which is conducive to further SME development and national, regional and international investment and trade through dedicated projects

To implement better and less regulation – including transparency in the regulatory process, public consultation, regulatory impact assessments and the reduction of the administrative burden in line with the "Think Small First" Principle

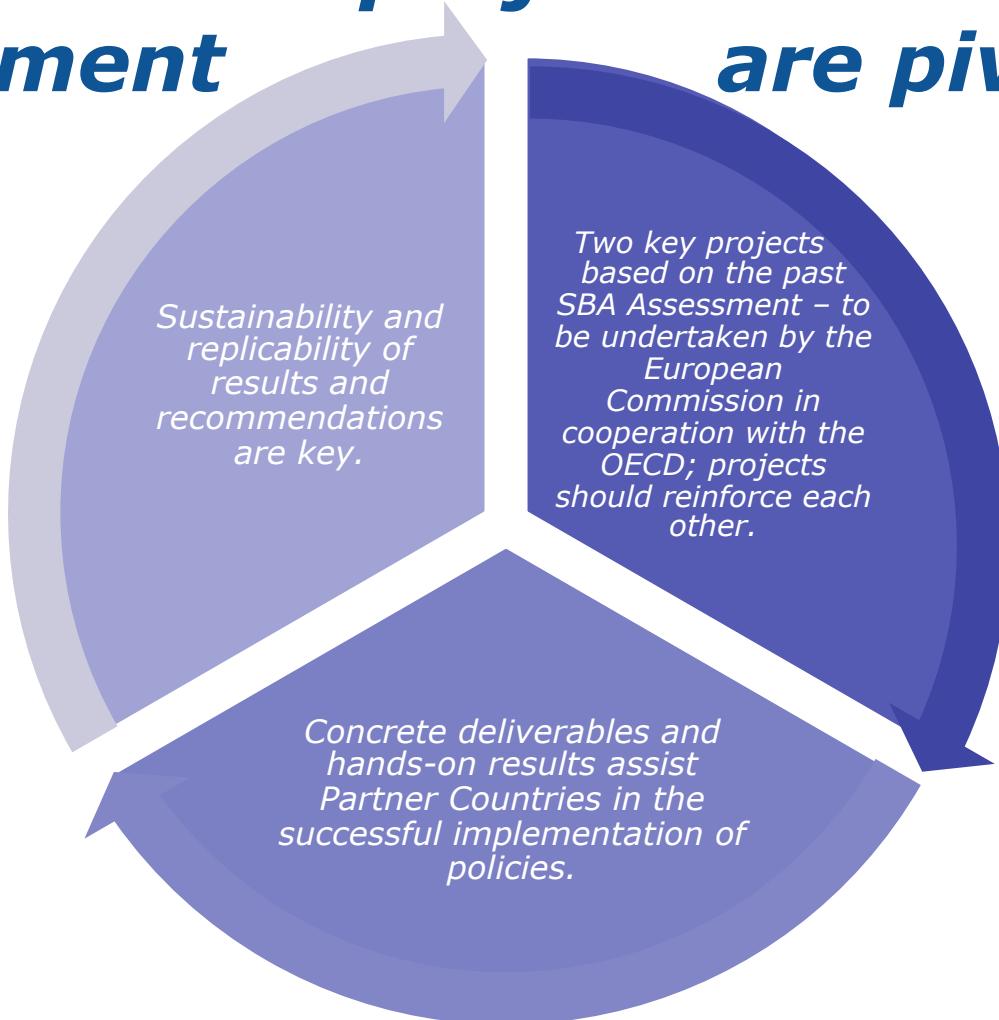
To increase business to business contacts and to strengthen cooperation between SMEs in EU Member States and Partner Countries

To improve the quality of financial reporting and the provision of reliable information about the financial position and performance of enterprises

To improve entrepreneurial skills in general and of specific target groups



Joint EC-OECD projects on SME development are pivotal!





2nd Round of SBA Assessment – Objectives

To streamline SME policies in the EaP countries in line with the principles of the SBA



To improve and adjust the SME Policy Index tool in line with the 'lessons learned' of the first assessment



To assess the state of implementation of SME policies following on to the recommendations of the 1st round



To complement and evaluate the impact of the SMEs competitiveness project which is undertaken in parallel



2nd Round of SBA Assessment – Objectives cont.

To assess the concrete impact of measures on SMEs on the ground by way of company surveys



To enhance the capacity of policy-makers as regards the development and effective implementation of SME policies



To further improve the business environment in the region which will be of benefit to EaP SMEs and European SMEs alike and thus enhance economic cooperation and integration



Role of SBA Coordinator

Proactive involvement and ownership of the project

In-depth knowledge about the 1st round of assessment and the recommendations for the respective country

Very good overview of the current state of play and changes since the past assessment

Good inroads into other departments/ministries/agencies involved in the process



Role of Administration

Ensure ownership of the assessment process on highest level

Commitment to further promote SME policy development on all levels in order to improve the business environment

Relevant departments should support the SBA Coordinator in her/his efforts and provide the necessary information/expertise

Ensure that recommendations are implemented and verify the impact 'on the ground'



Role of Business

Active participation in the assessment process (e.g. in the company surveys)

Provide concrete feedback on whether SME policies work in practice (or only on paper...)

Business organisations should facilitate access to companies (e.g. for surveys) and spread information on tools available (e.g. BDS, access to finance) to ensure uptake



Thank you for your attention!

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