

Selection of projects EIM International:

A comparative study of best practices in the area of social protection for new entrepreneurs and their spouses and an analysis of the degree to which the level of social protection acts as an incentive to business creation

The aim of the project is to give the EU more insight in the relation between the level of social security cover and the degree to which people are willing to become entrepreneurs or self-employed. In the frame of the project a comparative study of good practices in the area of social protection for new entrepreneurs and their spouses is carried out. In addition, an analysis is made of the degree to which the level of social protection is an impediment to business creation.

The information is based on desk research, interviews and an internet survey among young small enterprises.

The countries covered by the report are the 25 EU Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

Commissioned by European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry
Organisation: EIM Business & Policy Research
In cooperation with: European Network for Social & Economic Research (ENSR)
(<http://www.ensr-net.com>)

Promoting craft and SMEs in the area of European standardisation

The objective of this project was to: identify and assess policy measures - used by both national administrations and national standardisation, SME and sectoral professional organisations - that aim to improve SMEs' and craft enterprises' information on involvement in the elaboration and use of European standards.

The information has been collected from a wide range of stakeholders in national governments and a wide range of business organisations in 33 countries. Central data collection was combined with local support from EIM's research partners in the ENSR network in each of the countries concerned.

EIM was responsible for preparing a report describing such measures and identifying good practices: producing an overall report and assisting the Commission in organising a large international conference on the topic.

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The Observatory of European SMEs

EIM Business & Policy Research in close cooperation with the ENSR network, prepared eight editions of the Observatory of European SMEs. The Observatory monitors and analyses the performance of SMEs in their (national and supranational) business environment and assesses the impact of the Internal Market. The project covers all countries of the European Economic Area and Switzerland. Apart from the provision of quantitative information on the role of SMEs, the project deals with many important aspects of SME development, such as high tech SMEs, clusters, administrative burdens, taxation, social and environmental responsibility, etc. To obtain more insight into the behaviour of SMEs, telephone surveys were held among more than 7,500 enterprises in all countries covered by the project.

The annual reports of the SME Observatory appear to fulfil the needs of policy makers and the business community. They are distributed, studied and used in numerous policy-making circles all over Europe and beyond.

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More information and the reports can be found on the EC website:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/analysis/observatory_en.htm