

Enterprise
Directorate
General

The EU's Enterprise Development Strategy and Funding Programmes



European
Commission

Objectives of Multi-Annual Programme for SMEs 2001-2005

- Promote entrepreneurship
- Enhance growth and competitiveness
- Improve administrative and regulatory environment
- Improve financial environment
- Facilitate access to Community support services and networks



Role of the European Commission

- Coordinate Member State actions
 - * Enterprise Policy Scoreboard
 - * Implementation of the Charter for Small Enterprises
 - * Exchange of best practices
- Elaborate entrepreneurship policy : Green Paper and Action Plan
- Provide support to SMEs
 - * using DG ENTR instruments
 - * through other EU policies



Examples of past BEST Projects

- Training for Entrepreneurship
- Benchmarking the administration of start-ups & the management of incubators
- Business Angels network / microcredit
- Clusters and networking
- Transfer of business
- Entrepreneurship amongst women
- Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Fresh Start



Current and new BEST Projects

- Mini companies in secondary education
- Consultation of stakeholders in policy making
- Obstacles to growth : recruiting the first employee
- Guarantees and mutual guarantee mechanism



European agenda for Entrepreneurship

The Entrepreneurship Action Plan

Five key areas for action

1. Fuelling entrepreneurial mindsets
2. Encouraging more people to become entrepreneurs
3. Gearing entrepreneurs for growth and competitiveness
4. Improving the flow of finance
5. Creating a more SME-friendly regulatory and administrative framework



European agenda for Entrepreneurship

The Entrepreneurship Action Plan

Follow-up



Overall policy and performance targets are defined



Further targets set in the key actions



Periodic progress assessments will be made



The Entrepreneurship Action Plan

Key actions 2004-2005 (1)

1. Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets among young people
 - Exchange of best practice
 - Commission Communication with key success factors / recommendations
 - Work jointly with DG EAC to promote Entrepreneurship Education
2. Reducing the stigma of failure
 - Prepare material for information campaigns
 - Verify progress on improving bankruptcy laws
 - Conference to disseminate findings of the recent project
3. Facilitating business transfers
 - Study on cost of company deaths
 - Foster development of business transfer market places
 - Communication with further recommendations





The Entrepreneurship Action Plan

▪Key actions 2004-2005 (2)

4. Reviewing social security schemes for entrepreneurs
 - Identify influence of social sec. schemes on entrepreneurship drive
 - Good practices brochure
 - Investigate appropriateness of possible regulatory measure
5. Tailor-made support for women, young and ethnic minorities
 - Study on support for young entrepreneurs
 - Set up network on good practice exchange on access to finance
 - European conference on support services for these groups
6. Supporting businesses in developing inter-enterprise relations
 - Partnering events bringing together various stakeholders
 - Develop administrative support/IT tools to assist BICs, EICs & IRCs
 - Cluster linking - Extend innovative regions program





The Entrepreneurship Action Plan

Key actions 2004-2005 (3)

7. Creating more equity and stronger balance sheets in firms

- Evaluate current financial instruments
- Publish information on business angels market
- Investigate tax disincentives to stronger balance sheets
- Review/simplify state aid rules to SMES

8. Listening to SMEs

- Best project report with state of play/good practices/reference model
- Establish early-warning system for SME policy matters
- Improve the IPM exploitation mechanism

9. Reducing the complexity of complying with tax laws

- Launch a pilot scheme to apply 'Home State Taxation'
- Set up one stop shop mechanism for VAT registration across MS



The Entrepreneurship Action Plan

Possible key actions 2006 and beyond

- ⇒ Conducting entrepreneurship campaigns
- ⇒ Fostering the creation of more fast-growing enterprises (*gazelles*)
- ⇒ Promoting entrepreneurship in social sectors
- ⇒ Enabling micro-enterprises to recruit by reducing the complexity of regulations
- ⇒ Facilitating SMEs' access to public markets

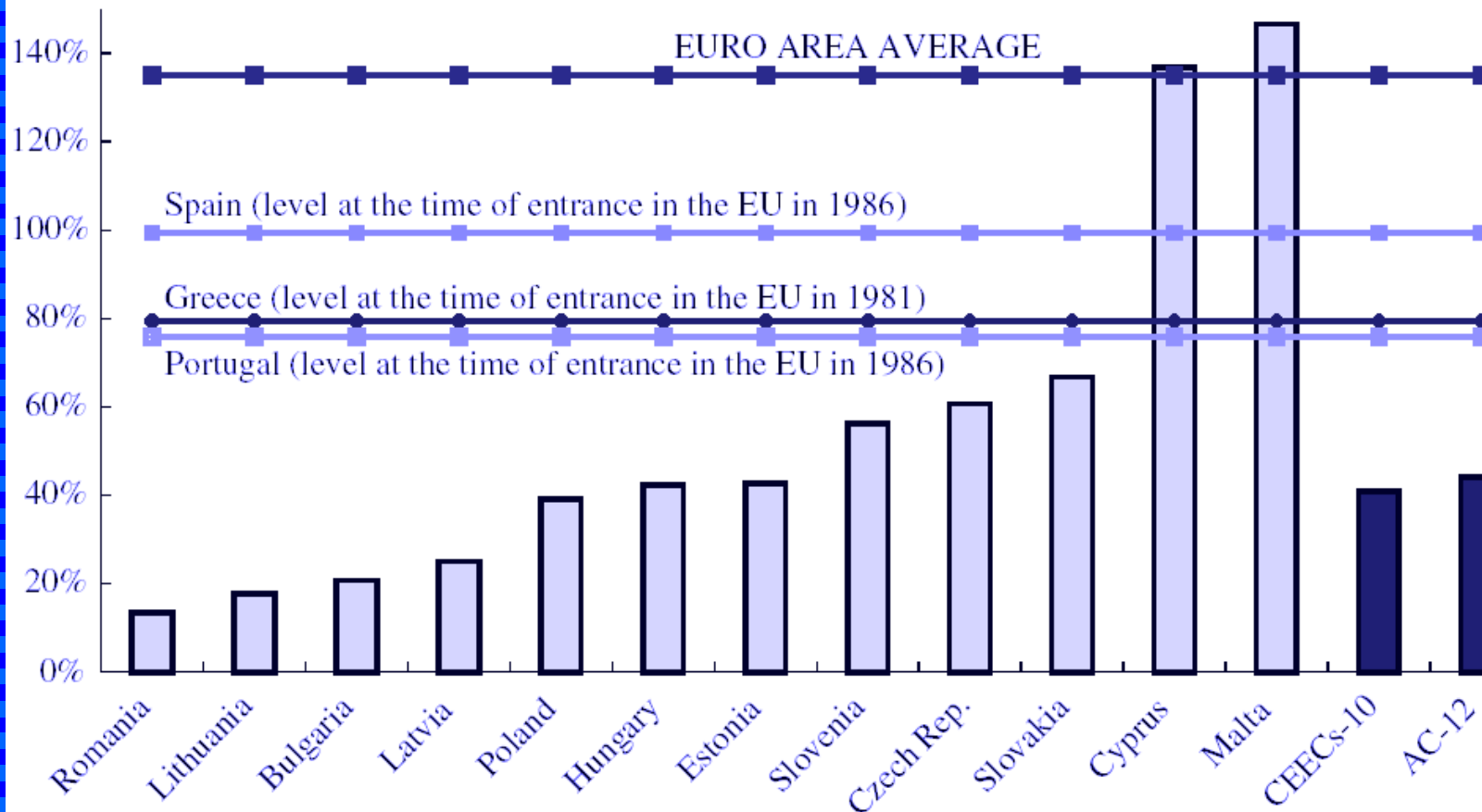


Enlargement: Key Facts

- EU 25 : Larger Integrated Market in the World
- 450 Mio Inhabitants, 25 Mio Enterprises
- Implementation of the 'Acquis Communautaire'
- Challenges
- Opportunities



Access to Finance : Level of Banking Intermediation Domestic Credit (% of GDP)



Source: ECB (2002): Financial Sectors in the EU Accession Countries



MAP financial instruments

- Financial instruments 2001-2005
 - * Total funding € 317m
 - * Managed by the EIF
 - * Using national financial intermediaries
- Three windows
 - * ETF Start-up: venture capital investments
 - * SME guarantee facilities
 - * Seed Capital Action: support for seed funds



Funding opportunities

- From Pre-Accession Schemes to Structural Funds
 - PHARE, SAPARD, ISPA
 - Structural Funds (22 billion euros until 2006)
 - Community initiatives: Interreg III, Urban I Leader +, Equal
- Pilot Action - Enlargement and SMEs
 - Regional partnership events for micro enterprises in EU border regions
 - Pan-European business co-operation schemes for SMEs



Regional policy (I)

- Aim: economic & social cohesion
- ERDF, Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, ISPA: € 213 bil. for 2000/2006
- 3 objectives:
 - * raise development standards
 - * assist economic and social conversion
 - * training and employment
- Community initiatives: Interreg III, Urban II, Leader +, Equal



Regional policy (II)

- 350 programmes, 100 000 projects every year
- Programme management and project selection at national level
- Regulation on eligible expenditures
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/reglem_dep_en.htm
- List of managing authorities
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm



Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer

- 6th framework Programme for Research & Development 2002-2006 Innovation policy
 - * SME specific measures
- Gate2Growth : business plan assistance & project-investor matching (www.Gate2Growth.com)
- Networks of Innovation Relay Centers
- CORDIS (www.cordis.lu)



Other EU programmes

- Environment: LIFE III
- Education and training: LEONARDO
- Safety and Health at work (EASHW)
- Intelligent Energy programme
- Information Society (e-content)
- External relations and international cooperation: AL INVEST, ASIA INVEST, GATEWAY TO JAPAN



Euro Info Centres

- 300 EICs in 39 countries: European Union, Norway, Iceland, CEECs and the Mediterranean
- Information, advice and assistance to SMEs
- Provide feed-back to the Commission
- EIC Enlargement campaign : 400 activities in 26 countries



SME Envoy

- Monitoring of policies affecting SMEs
- Regular dialogue with the SME community, both at national and EU level :
 - * information to SMEs
 - * obtain their feedback on EU legislation, programmes and policies
- Highlight SME concerns to relevant Commission services



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