

The Missing Entrepreneurs

Inclusive Entrepreneurship Policy Country Assessment Notes: Austria

2022-23



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FOREWORD

Entrepreneurship plays an important role in the economy as it is a driver of innovation and job creation. However, entrepreneurship policies can also help achieve other policy objectives such as strengthening social inclusion and labour market attachment. Inclusive entrepreneurship policies aim to ensure that all people, regardless of their personal characteristics and background, have an opportunity to start and run their own businesses. Governments can do more to unlock the entrepreneurial potential among groups such as women, immigrants, youth, seniors, the unemployed and people with disabilities by using differentiated policies and programmes that respond to specific barriers faced. This includes the use of dedicated measures, as well as reducing negative social attitudes and biases, removing regulatory and institutional obstacles, and improving access to general entrepreneurship measures.

This note is part of a series of notes on country-level inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as part of a collaboration with the European Commission. These notes provide an overview of current and planned policy actions and identify some actions that could be implemented to strengthen the current support offering. These country-specific notes are part of a wider programme of work on inclusive entrepreneurship policy by the OECD and the European Commission that includes “The Missing Entrepreneurs” publications, the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (www.yepa-hub.org), the Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool (www.betterentrepreneurship.eu), a series of Policy Briefs on specific target groups, policies and issues, and national policy reviews of youth entrepreneurship and women entrepreneurship. This work stream examines how public policies and programmes can support inclusion and diversity in entrepreneurship, including through refining regulatory and welfare institutions, facilitating access to finance, building entrepreneurship skills, strengthening entrepreneurial culture and networks for groups that are under-represented in entrepreneurship, and putting strategies and actions together for inclusive entrepreneurship in a co-ordinated and targeted way. Governments are increasingly recognising the challenge of inclusive entrepreneurship, but there is still much to do to spread good practice. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/inclusive-entrepreneurship/>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This note was prepared by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) led by Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, as part of the programmes of work of the OECD Committee for SMEs and Entrepreneurship and the OECD Local Economic and Employment Development Programme. The work of these two committees is supported by the OECD Secretariat, notably the CFE SME and Entrepreneurship Division led by Lucia Cusmano, Acting Head of Division, and the CFE Local Employment, Skills and Social Innovation Division, led by Karen Maguire, Head of Division.

This report was prepared by Pablo Shah of the OECD CFE based on inputs prepared by national inclusive entrepreneurship experts Eva Heckl and Karin Petzlberger of the Austrian Institute for SME Research, under the direction of David Halabisky, Project co-ordinator, and Dr Jonathan Potter, Head of Entrepreneurship Policy and Analysis Unit, both of the OECD CFE. Much of the data contained in this note were prepared by Dr. Jonathan Levie of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor.

This note benefited from feedback and suggestions provided by Julien De Beys of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission.

An online seminar was organised to review a draft of the report on 23 May 2023. Suggestions and inputs were received from representatives of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the Vienna Business Agency and the Vienna Chamber of Commerce.

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INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRENDS AND POLICIES IN AUSTRIA

KEY MESSAGES

Inclusive entrepreneurship rates and trends

- The early-stage entrepreneurship rate was above the EU average between 2016 and 2020, notably among youth (11% vs. 7%) and women (7% vs. 5%). However, the share of early-stage entrepreneurs who were growth-oriented declined in recent years, alongside a rise in necessity-based entrepreneurship.
- The self-employed in Austria are much more likely to employ others compared to the EU average.
- If everyone was as active in entrepreneurship as men (30-49 years old), there would be 342 000 additional entrepreneurs. About two-thirds of these “missing” entrepreneurs are women, while 56% are over 50 years old.

Approach to inclusive entrepreneurship

- There are dedicated entrepreneurship strategies for a number of target groups, namely youth, immigrants and the unemployed.
- Many policy measures are in place to stimulate and support entrepreneurship, such as the Austria Federal Economic Chamber’s Business Start-up Service.

Policy strengths

- There are numerous support measures for young entrepreneurs, particularly in relation to entrepreneurship education.

Policy gaps and areas for improvement

- Entrepreneurship and labour market policy are often seen as separate areas with different goals, hindering a comprehensive approach to stimulating entrepreneurship.
- There is a lack of dedicated policy support schemes for senior entrepreneurs.

Main recommendations

- Develop an overall entrepreneurship strategy with clearly defined goals for inclusive entrepreneurship.
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation to identify impacts of inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes.

CONDITIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn led to a decline in the entrepreneurship conditions in Austria and the business entry rate and the total early-stage entrepreneurial activity (TEA) rate declined (

Table 1). Moreover, the share of TEA that was necessity-based increased to 17%, while the share that was growth-oriented declined to 6%. The latter is noticeably below the EU average of 10%. Moreover, the self-employment rate was also below the EU average, although a larger share of the self-employed employed others than on average in the EU.

Table 1. Conditions for entrepreneurship

Year	Business entry rate	Business exit rate	TEA rate	Necessity-based TEA	Growth-oriented TEA	Self-employment	
						Rate	% employers
	2020	2020	2016-20	2016-20	2016-20	2021	2021
Austria (%)	5 ▼	4 ▼	9 ▼	17 ▲	6 ▼	10 ▼	41 ▼
EU average (%)	9 ▼	7 ▼	6 ▼	18 ▼	10 ▼	13 ▼	32 ▲

Note: The total early-stage entrepreneurial activity (TEA) rate measures the share of the population starting or managing a new business (less than 42 months old). Up and down arrows indicate an increase or decrease relative to the previous period, i.e. previous year for annual indicators or previous period (2015-19) for indicators based on data from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. The left-right arrows indicate no change, i.e. a change of between -1% and 1%. Austria participated in the GEM survey during the period 2015-20 except for the following years: 2015, 2017, and 2019.

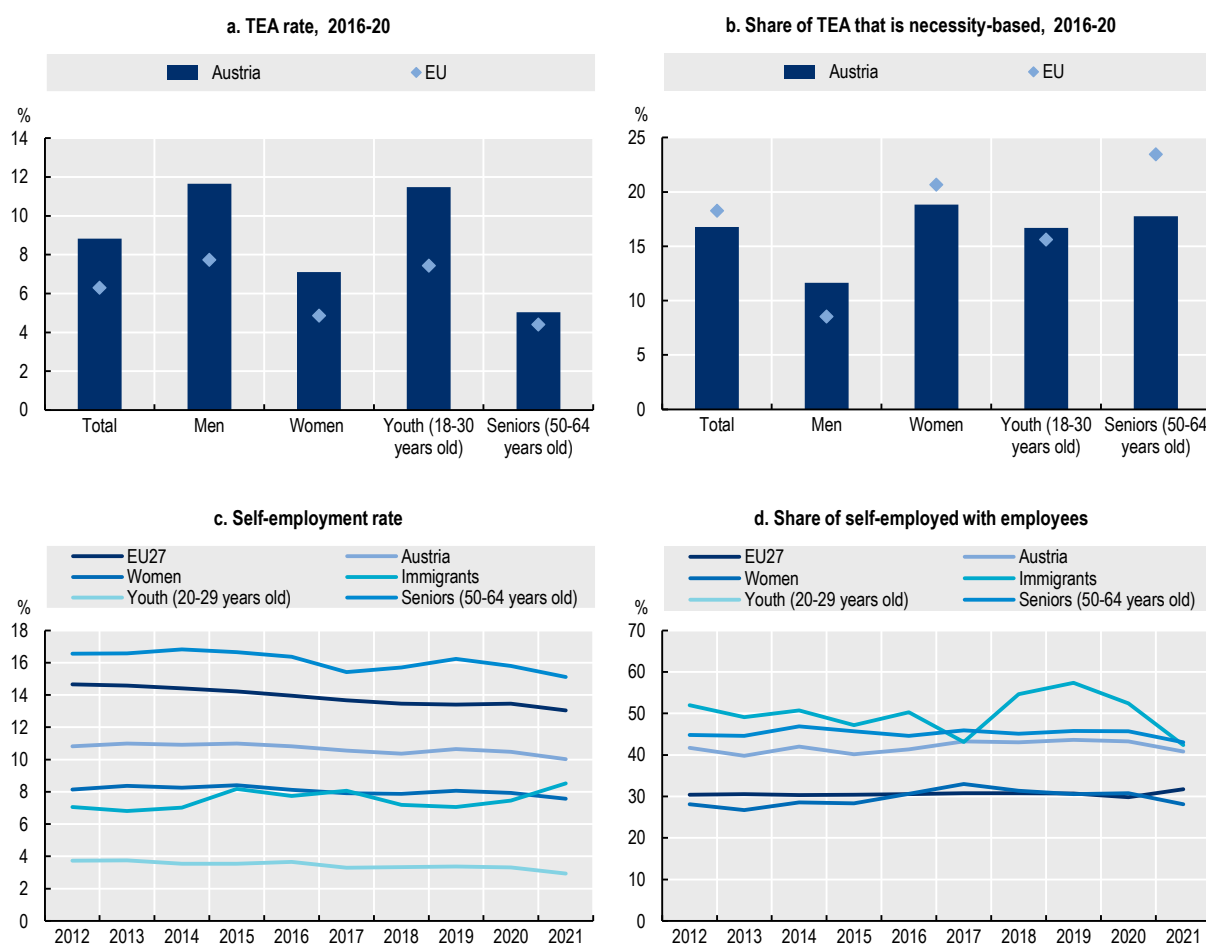
Source: Eurostat (2022), Employment and Unemployment (LFS) Database; GEM (2021), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey.

INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRENDS

The TEA rate was above the EU average over the period 2016-20, notably among youth (11% vs. 7%) and women (7% vs. 5%) (Figure 1). Necessity-based entrepreneurship accounted for a slightly lower share of TEA in Austria (17%) than on average in the EU (18%) in the same period. Although among youth, the share of early-stage entrepreneurs who launched their businesses out of necessity (17%) was slightly higher than the EU average (16%).

The self-employment rate in Austria declined from 11% to 10% in the period 2012-21, which was in line with the EU average. However, the share of the self-employed with employees also declined in Austria in the same period by more than 2 percentage points, which was higher than the EU average. Moreover, self-employed women, seniors and immigrants became less likely to employ others in 2021 compared to the previous year.

Figure 1. Inclusive entrepreneurship trends



Note: The total early-stage entrepreneurial activity (TEA) rate measures the share of the population starting or managing a new business (less than 42 months old). Self-employment rate measures the proportion of those in employment who are self-employed. Austria participated in the GEM survey during the period 2016-20 except for the following years: 2017 and 2019.







Source: Eurostat (2022), Employment and Unemployment (LFS) Database; GEM (2021), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey.

THE MISSING ENTREPRENEURS

The gaps in entrepreneurship rates across target population groups suggests that there are many “missing” entrepreneurs. Eliminating all of these gaps in entrepreneurship activity rates across population groups would result in an additional 342 000 entrepreneurs in Austria (i.e. if all inclusive entrepreneurship population groups participated in early-stage entrepreneurship at the same rate as “core age” men, i.e. 30-49 years old). Nearly two-thirds (65%) of these “missing” entrepreneurs are women and more than half (56%) are seniors (i.e. aged 50 years old or above). This is consistent with the relatively high proportions of partially or fully inactive women and senior workers in Austria.¹ Moreover, the entrepreneurship gap increased across all inclusive entrepreneurship target population groups, except for immigrants where the gap decreased (Figure 2).

¹ OECD Economic Surveys: Austria 2021 https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-surveys-austria_19990189

Figure 2. Changes in entrepreneurship gaps, 2020 to 2021

Overall	Women	Youth	Seniors	Immigrants	Unemployed
					

Note: A down arrow indicates an improvement in the entrepreneurship gap (i.e. the gap has diminished) between 2020 and 2021, whereas an up arrow indicates that the entrepreneurship gap has grown (i.e. the gap has increased). A left/right arrow symbolises no change in the entrepreneurship gap.

Source: OECD calculations

INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY ASSESSMENT

There are numerous mainstream policy measures for entrepreneurs. These supports include the Business Start-up Service (*Gründerservice*) of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, which provides nationwide personal consulting and services, as well as many regional services. An area of strength is the numerous support measures for **youth** (Table B.3), especially with respect to entrepreneurship education. A range of relevant stakeholders collectively developed the “Entrepreneurship Education - Map of Actions for Children and Young Adults”, which includes schemes planned to promote and perpetuate entrepreneurship education. With the nationwide operations of the Entrepreneurship Centre Network (ECN), students and graduates also receive support when they are interested in founding a business. Moreover, vocational education and training (VET) plays a very important role in the education system. Apprentices gain a good insight into practical business processes in the often small-structured training companies and, as a result, frequently set up a (craft) business themselves. In many cases, vocational training is already a prerequisite for starting a business in certain regulated trades (master craftsman's certificate, school-leaving certificate). An ongoing project of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training indicates that vocational training is very well institutionalised.²

There are tailored entrepreneurship support programmes in place for the **unemployed** (Table B.5) and for **people with disabilities** (Table B.6). However, there are limited inclusive entrepreneurship programmes for other target groups, notably for **seniors** (Table B.4). Furthermore, public programmes, such as national action plans for **women** (Table B.1) and **immigrants** (Table B.2), often refer to ambitions of increasing entrepreneurship; however, they often lack concrete measures and do not define explicit goals.

NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

In July 2022, the government launched the [Start-up Council](#), which is a body of experts from the start-up ecosystem that acts as an independent advisory body to the Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy. It aims to improve economic conditions for start-ups and innovative companies, focussing particularly on increasing the mobilisation of private capital and process facilitation. The Council works in close co-operation with the innovation ecosystem (e.g. start-ups, business angels, venture capital funds, incubators and accelerators), interest groups and policymakers.

Several recent initiatives to support youth entrepreneurship have been introduced. For example, the Federal Government adopted 28 “Austrian Youth Goals” on 30 September 2020, which forms part of the [Austrian Youth Strategy](#). The strategy is co-ordinated by the Federal Chancellery. Five additional youth goals were adopted in 2021. Two of these goals are particularly relevant in the context of inclusive entrepreneurship:

²<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/about-cedefop/public-procurement/entrepreneurship-competence-vocational-education-and-training>

- To teach young people how to think and act economically and to support them in implementing their ideas.
- Supporting young people in acquiring financial literacy, which is an essential factor for success in employment and economic self-determination.

In 2021, the first [Youth Entrepreneurship Week](#) was organised, which is a multi-day workshop for developing ideas and projects. Over three and a half days, young people deal with the topic of entrepreneurship and are supported by trainers and partners from the start-up community.

Moreover, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs published the “[Entrepreneurship Education - Map of Actions for Children and Young Adults](#)” in November 2020. This map is a joint effort of many relevant stakeholders and includes current and planned actions to promote and facilitate entrepreneurship education. An interim report analysing the implementation of the map will be published at the end of 2023. The promotion of entrepreneurship education has also been made explicit in the current government programme 2020-24.³ Another recent development in this area is the nationwide expansion of the Entrepreneurship Centre Network (ECN) following a reorientation in 2020.⁴ The Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Vienna University of Economics and Business initially launched ECN in 2012. Six Viennese universities joined the ECN with the aim of contributing to a sustainable increase in the number of interdisciplinary start-ups coming out of the universities by promoting awareness and networking on the topic of entrepreneurship. There are now 27 universities in the network.

Other relevant developments include the Start-up Initiative of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, which enables all start-up founders to exchange ideas and provide suggestions on the start-up ecosystem and policy framework, and the formation of the [Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities](#) in 2021. The association supports people with disabilities in becoming entrepreneurs by promoting networking among entrepreneurs with disabilities and with relevant stakeholders; representing the interests of entrepreneurs with disabilities towards policy makers; advising people with disabilities who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs and supporting the formation of a positive public opinion about entrepreneurship by people with disabilities.

RISK FACTORS FOR INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Several factors hinder public policy efforts to reduce entrepreneurship gaps across the population, including the fear of failure and entrepreneurship skills levels (Figure 3). Fear of failure differed across the target groups with women (50%) and youth (48%) reporting higher levels than on average in the EU (47% and 39% respectively), while seniors were less likely to report a fear of failure as a barrier to business creation (Austria: 40% and EU: 44%). Conversely, all population groups were more optimistic about possessing the needed skills and knowledge to start and manage a business compared to their EU counterparts.

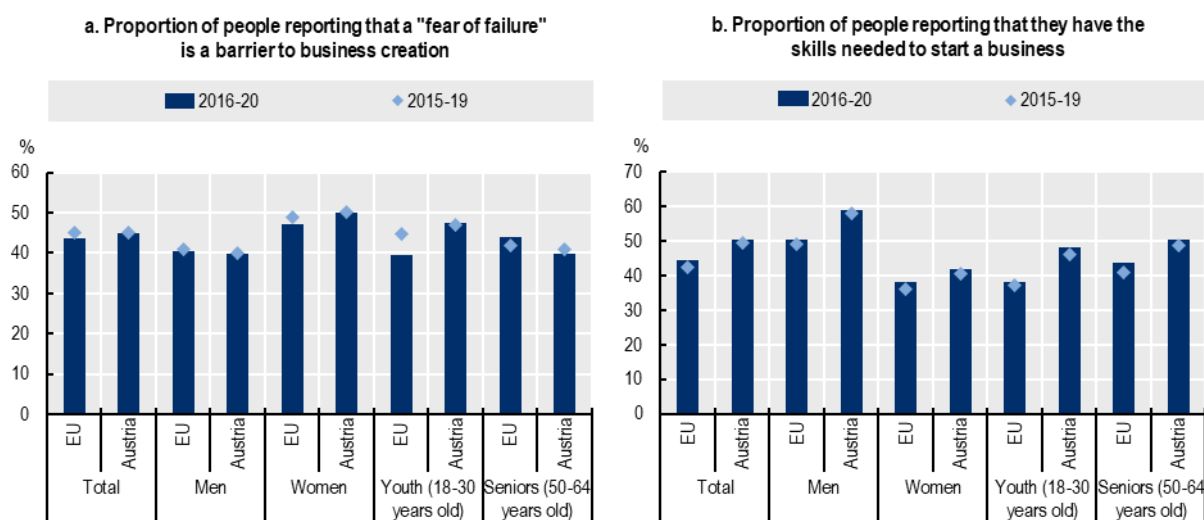
Another barrier to business creation by target population groups is the lack of a dedicated entrepreneurship strategy for women, despite this group accounting for the majority of Austria’s “missing” entrepreneurs. Moreover, existing policies and programmes have often been designed and implemented without consultation of the targeted groups, which can lead to less buy in from the intended recipients and low take up rates. Additionally, monitoring and evaluation practices are not widespread for entrepreneurship support policies. There are very limited data and impact assessments available, resulting in a lack of evidence on programme outcomes and impacts. A relatively low supply of risk capital for Austrian start-ups is also a

³ <https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/Ministerium/Regierungsprogramm.html>

⁴ <https://ecn.ac.at/>

bottleneck.⁵ Moreover, entrepreneurship and labour market policy are often seen as separate areas with very different goals. This hinders developing a comprehensive policy approach to fostering entrepreneurship. The recent formation of the Ministry of Labour and Economy represents an opportunity to overcome this issue.

Figure 3. Barriers to entrepreneurship, 2016-20



Note: Austria participated in the GEM survey during the period 2015-20 except for the following years: 2015, 2017, and 2019.

Source: GEM (2021), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

While mainstream entrepreneurship policies and support programmes are available, there is limited tailored or dedicated entrepreneurship initiatives for inclusive entrepreneurship population groups, notably women. However, there is scope for strengthening the existing support mechanisms and better addressing the needs of some population groups by:

- Developing and implementing an overall entrepreneurship strategy in order to formulate political intentions, define concise goals and establish responsibilities. This strategy should also focus on specific target groups – in particular women – and develop suitable instruments and measures to promote entrepreneurship and anchor it more firmly in society. An overall entrepreneurship strategy could also address imbalances in entrepreneurship support in the different Federal States and present all available measures within a single framework.
- Designing a dedicated strategy with measures for seniors who wish to become entrepreneurs.
- Enhancing monitoring and evaluation practices to identify impacts of policies and programmes. Regular monitoring and evaluation would make it possible to determine the extent to which programme targets have been achieved and guide future adjustments to improve the design and implementation of the policy interventions.

⁵ OECD Economic Surveys: Austria 2021 https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-surveys-austria_19990189

ANNEX A: INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY FRAMEWORK

Table A.1. Characterisation of the inclusive entrepreneurship policy context

		Women	Immigrants	Youth	Seniors	Unemployed	People with disabilities
1. Entrepreneurship policies for each target group are under the responsibility of the following level(s) of government (multiple levels can be checked)	National	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Regional						
	Local						
2. A group-specific entrepreneurship strategy has been developed (either stand-alone or embedded in another strategy)			✓	✓		✓	
3. Clear targets and objectives for entrepreneurship policy have been developed and reported for different target groups				✓		✓	
4. Monitoring and evaluation practices for entrepreneurship support are strong and wide-spread				✓		✓	

Note: A check-mark indicates the level policy responsibility for tailored entrepreneurship policy (multiple selections are possible) and characteristics of the entrepreneurship policy framework.

ANNEX B: OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The tables present the characteristics of entrepreneurship schemes that are directly offered by national, regional and local governments, as well as those that are financed by the public sector but delivered by other actors. It considers the “typical” entrepreneur in each of the different target groups, in the “typical” region in the country. A check-mark indicates when the characteristic is typically fulfilled.

Table B.1. Inclusive entrepreneurship schemes to support women entrepreneurs

		Tailored: Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	Consultation: Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	Outreach: Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	Delivery: Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	Take-up: Does the support have high take-up among target group?	Scale: Is the scale of available support sufficient?	Impact: Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	Integrated: Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	Follow-up: Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?
Skills	1. Entrepreneurship training	✓			✓		✓			✓
	2. Entrepreneurship coaching and mentoring	✓			✓		✓			✓
	3. Business consultancy, including incubators	✓			✓		✓			✓
Finance	1. Grants for business creation									
	2. Loan guarantees									
	3. Microfinance and loans									
	4. Other instruments (e.g. crowdfunding, risk capital)									
Culture and networks	1. Entrepreneurship campaigns, including role models	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	2. Networking initiatives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Regulatory supports	1. Support with understanding and complying with administrative procedures	✓		✓						
	2. Group-specific measures	Maternity leave and benefits for the self-employed	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
		Access to childcare								

Table B.2. Inclusive entrepreneurship schemes to support immigrant entrepreneurs

			Tailored: Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	Consultation: Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	Outreach: Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	Delivery: Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	Take-up: Does the support have high take-up among target group?	Scale: Is the scale of available support sufficient?	Impact: Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	Integrated: Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	Follow-up: Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?
Skills	1. Entrepreneurship training										
	2. Entrepreneurship coaching and mentoring										
	3. Business consultancy, including incubators										
Finance	1. Grants for business creation										
	2. Loan guarantees										
	3. Microfinance and loans										
	4. Other instruments (e.g. crowdfunding, risk capital)										
Culture and networks	1. Entrepreneurship campaigns, including role models										
	2. Networking initiatives		✓			✓					
Regulatory supports	1. Support with understanding and complying with administrative procedures										
	2. Group-specific measures	Entrepreneurship visa	✓								
		Administrative and tax obligations can be met in several languages									

Table B.3. Inclusive entrepreneurship schemes to support youth entrepreneurs

		Tailored: Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	Consultation: Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	Outreach: Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	Delivery: Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	Take-up: Does the support have high take-up among target group?	Scale: Is the scale of available support sufficient?	Impact: Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	Integrated: Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	Follow-up: Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?
Skills	1. Entrepreneurship training	✓			✓		✓			✓
	2. Entrepreneurship coaching and mentoring	✓			✓		✓			✓
	3. Business consultancy, including incubators	✓			✓		✓			✓
Finance	1. Grants for business creation	✓			✓				✓	✓
	2. Loan guarantees	✓			✓				✓	✓
	3. Microfinance and loans	✓			✓				✓	✓
	4. Other instruments (e.g. crowdfunding, risk capital)	✓			✓				✓	✓
Culture and networks	1. Entrepreneurship campaigns, including role models	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	2. Networking initiatives	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Regulatory supports	1. Support with understanding and complying with administrative procedures									
	2. Group-specific measures	Student business legal form								
		Reduced tax and/or social security contributions for new graduates								

Table B.4. Inclusive entrepreneurship schemes to support senior entrepreneurs

			Tailored: Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	Consultation: Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	Outreach: Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	Delivery: Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	Take-up: Does the support have high take-up among target group?	Scale: Is the scale of available support sufficient?	Impact: Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	Integrated: Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	Follow-up: Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?
Skills	1. Entrepreneurship training										
	2. Entrepreneurship coaching and mentoring										
	3. Business consultancy, including incubators										
Finance	1. Grants for business creation										
	2. Loan guarantees										
	3. Microfinance and loans										
	4. Other instruments (e.g. crowdfunding, risk capital)										
Culture and networks	1. Entrepreneurship campaigns, including role models										
	2. Networking initiatives										
Regulatory supports	1. Support with understanding and complying with administrative procedures										
	2. Group-specific measures	Pension for self-employed									
		Measures to facilitate business transfer/exit									

Table B.5. Inclusive entrepreneurship schemes to support entrepreneurs starting from unemployment

		Tailored: Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	Consultation: Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	Outreach: Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	Delivery: Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	Take-up: Does the support have high take-up among target group?	Scale: Is the scale of available support sufficient?	Impact: Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	Integrated: Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	Follow-up: Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?
Skills	1. Entrepreneurship training	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2. Entrepreneurship coaching and mentoring	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3. Business consultancy, including incubators	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Finance	1. Grants for business creation	✓			✓				✓	✓
	2. Loan guarantees									
	3. Microfinance and loans	✓			✓				✓	✓
	4. Other instruments (e.g. crowdfunding, risk capital)								✓	
Culture and networks	1. Entrepreneurship campaigns, including role models									
	2. Networking initiatives	✓				✓			✓	✓
Regulatory supports	1. Support with understanding and complying with administrative procedures	✓			✓				✓	✓
	2. Group-specific measures	Welfare bridge to support those moving into self-employment	✓							
		Mechanisms for regaining access to unemployment benefits if business is not successful								

Table B.6. Inclusive entrepreneurship schemes to support entrepreneurs with disabilities

		Tailored: Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	Consultation: Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	Outreach: Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	Delivery: Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	Take-up: Does the support have high take-up among target group?	Scale: Is the scale of available support sufficient?	Impact: Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	Integrated: Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	Follow-up: Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?
Skills	1. Entrepreneurship training									
	2. Entrepreneurship coaching and mentoring									
	3. Business consultancy, including incubators	✓			✓					
Finance	1. Grants for business creation	✓			✓				✓	✓
	2. Loan guarantees									
	3. Microfinance and loans	✓			✓				✓	✓
	4. Other instruments (e.g. crowdfunding, risk capital)									
Culture and networks	1. Entrepreneurship campaigns, including role models	✓			✓					
	2. Networking initiatives	✓			✓					
Regulatory supports	1. Support with understanding and complying with administrative procedures				✓					
	2. Group-specific measures	Mechanisms to move back into disability benefit system if business is not successful								
		Mechanisms to move regain access to other social security supports (e.g. housing benefits) if business is not successful								
		Medical leave schemes for the self-employed								

ANNEX C: METHODOLOGY

Each country report was prepared by the OECD Secretariat with support from a national inclusive entrepreneurship policy expert. Information was collected through desk research and interviews (i.e. telephone, face-to-face, email) with policy officers, entrepreneurship support organisations and other stakeholders. The information was then verified at an online seminar on 23 May 2023 with government ministries, programme managers and other inclusive entrepreneurship stakeholders.

The notes are based on the framework used in the OECD-EU Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool, which contains six pillars:

1. Building entrepreneurship skills and capacities for inclusive entrepreneurship;
2. Facilitating access to business finance for inclusive entrepreneurship;
3. Fostering an inclusive entrepreneurial culture;
4. Building a supportive regulatory environment for inclusive entrepreneurship;
5. Expanding networks for inclusive entrepreneurship;
6. Strengthening the design and delivery of inclusive entrepreneurship support.

The notes provide a brief overview of the current inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes. They also assess programmes against the following international good practice criteria, considering the “typical” entrepreneur in each of the different target groups (i.e. women, immigrants, seniors, youth, the unemployed, people who experience disability), in the “typical” region in the country. It covers schemes that are directly offered by national, regional and local governments, as well as those that are financed by the public sector but delivered by other actors. The international good practice criteria used in the assessment are:

- **Tailored:** Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?
- **Consultation:** Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?
- **Outreach:** Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?
- **Delivery:** Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?
- **Take-up:** Does the support have high take-up among target group?
- **Scale:** Is the scale of available support sufficient?
- **Impact:** Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?
- **Integrated:** Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?
- **Follow-up:** Do tailored programmes link to mainstream support programmes?

A focus is placed on the most commonly targeted population groups, namely women, immigrants, youth, seniors, the unemployed and people with disabilities.