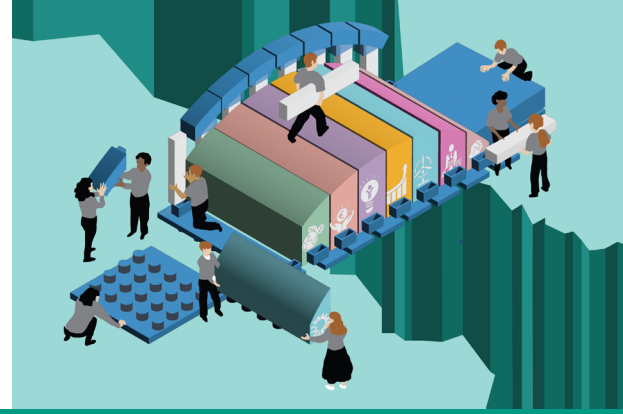


SME POLICY INDEX

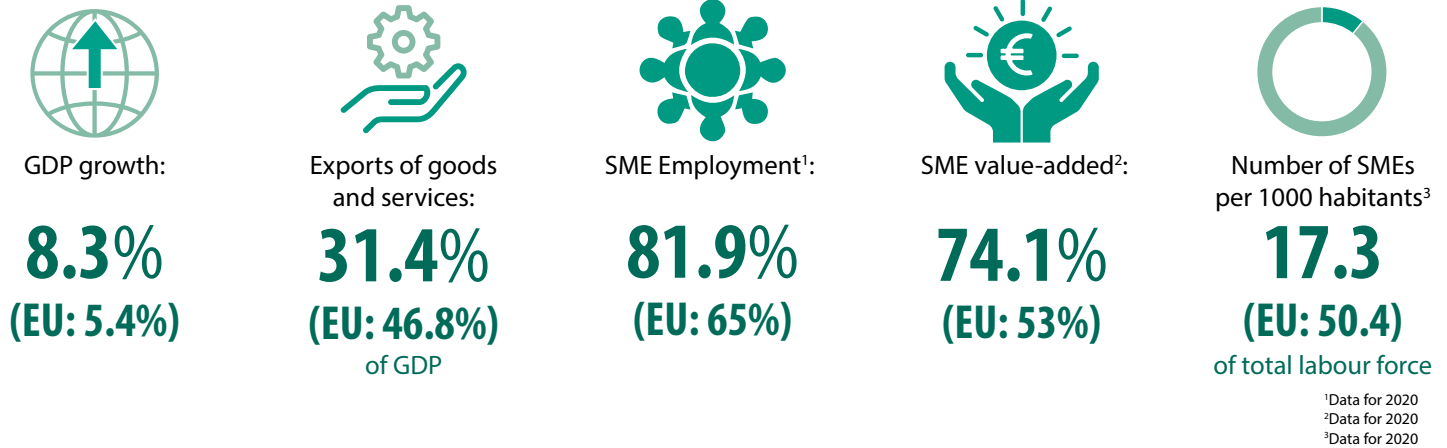
Western Balkans and Turkey 2022

Albania

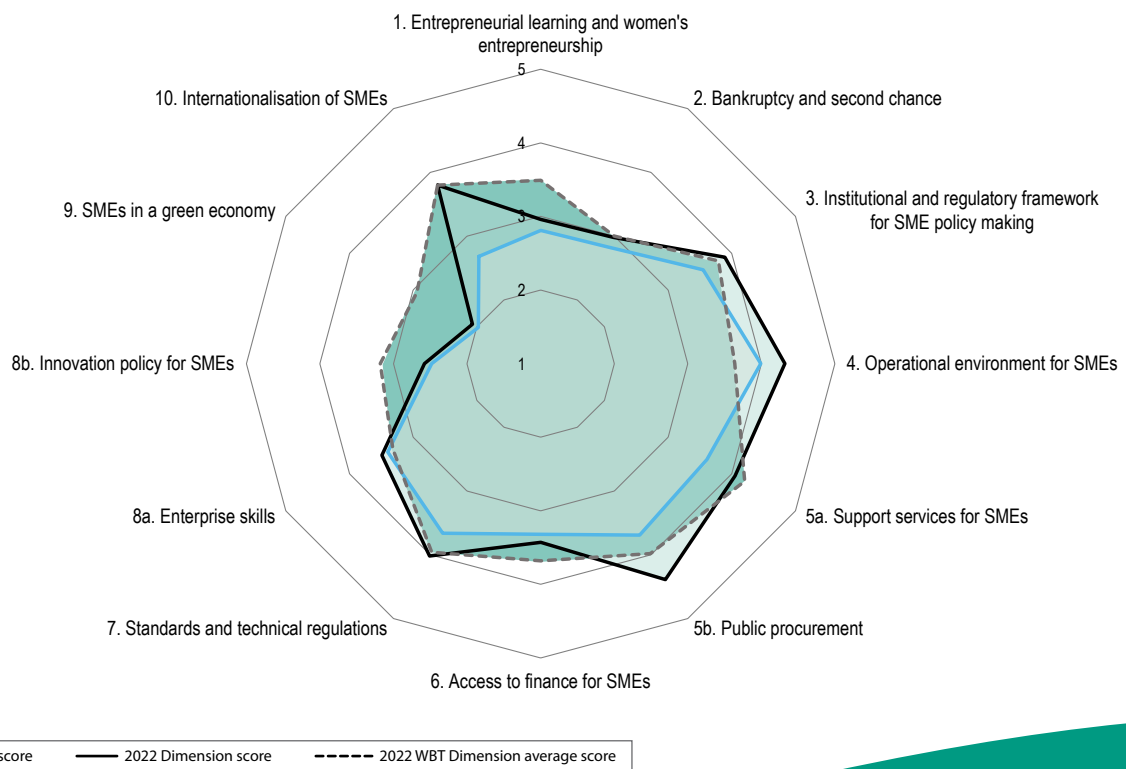


Since 2019, Albania has improved its performance across all 12 policy areas, reflecting the importance of SMEs in the government's policy agenda. Ensuring that implementation has impact is crucial in achieving governments' objectives, while monitoring and evaluation of all policy measures are essential for tracking efficiency and effectiveness.

Key facts (2021)



Albania's SME Policy Index performance (2019 and 2022)



Main achievements

- ❖ **Albania's operational environment for SMEs remains the most advanced in the region.** Digital reforms have been continuously implemented under a whole-of-government approach and progress was made in both increasing the availability of digital government services and streamlining them to better fit users' needs.
- ❖ **Support for SMEs is expected to increase significantly** with the newly adopted Business Development and Investment Strategy (2021-2027), which envisages business support services better adapted to SMEs' needs.
- ❖ **Public procurement has advanced** by increasingly aligning its regulatory framework with EU requirements and by adopting key strategic documents concerning SMEs' access and e-procurement.
- ❖ **EU alignment and implementation support for SMEs in technical regulations and standards was expanded.**
- ❖ **Creating an ecosystem conducive to start-ups and innovation has become a priority for Albania,** with the adoption of a dedicated innovation Start-up Law in 2022, which envisages a state-budget allocation in support of the innovation ecosystem.
- ❖ **Considerable progress was made supporting SME internationalisation,** with an increasingly enabling environment that enhances export sophistication and innovation while also boosting export competitiveness.

The way forward

- ❖ **Embed entrepreneurship as a key competence in both the formal and non-formal education systems.** Strong leadership should be provided through a multi-stakeholder partnership, guiding concrete government-led actions with a committed budget supporting curriculum reform.
- ❖ **Develop insolvency prevention policy measures, including a fully-fledged early warning system,** as SMEs tend to underestimate the importance of maintaining a sound financial status and avoiding risky decisions.
- ❖ **Ensure the effective realisation and monitoring of green measures** of all involved institutions, through a dedicated co-ordination government body, to encourage SMEs' greening transition.
- ❖ **Increase financial support schemes for SMEs.** Revive financial support provided by AIDA to further facilitate access to finance for those enterprises needing support the most.
- ❖ **Create a conducive business environment for SME digitalisation and e-commerce adoption.**

SME Policy Index: Western Balkans and Turkey 2022

This sixth edition of the SME Policy Index: Western Balkans and Turkey 2022 – Assessing the Implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe assesses SME-related policy reforms in Western Balkans and Turkey across 12 policy dimensions. It is designed to help policy makers develop and implement policies to support SMEs and entrepreneurs in their recovery from the pandemic and to boost their competitiveness based on good practices in OECD and EU member states. Economy-specific profiles complement the regional assessment and provide each economy with an in-depth analysis of the implementation status of the ten Small Business Act for Europe principles and monitors progress made since 2019.

