

The Missing Entrepreneurs

# **Inclusive Entrepreneurship Policy Assessment Country Notes: Austria**

2024-25



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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](http://www.yepa-hub.org)), the Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool ([www.betterentrepreneurship.eu](http://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/>.

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# INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRENDS AND POLICIES IN AUSTRIA

## KEY MESSAGES

### Inclusive entrepreneurship rates and trends

- Women were 1.2 times less likely than men to be working on a start-up over the period 2019-23.
- Self-employed individuals are more likely to have employees than on average in the European Union (EU). Yet, these rates have declined following the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among self-employed immigrants with 42% reporting that they had employees in 2023 compared to 57% in 2019.

### Approach to inclusive entrepreneurship policy

- Entrepreneurship support is widely available, including tailored and dedicated measures for inclusive entrepreneurship target population groups.
- Vocational training and apprenticeships are institutionalised and plays an important role in the education system and in business creation.

### Policy strengths

- The promotion of entrepreneurship education is a public policy priority, and many entrepreneurial ecosystem stakeholders are involved in the design and delivery of support schemes for youth.

### Policy gaps and areas for improvement

- There are no dedicated entrepreneurship supports available for senior entrepreneurs.
- Policy remains unclear without concrete actions to promote and support the development of entrepreneurship, notably among women and immigrants. This is due in part to entrepreneurship and labour market policies being treated independently with differing goals.
- There is limited data available on existing inclusive entrepreneurship support measures as well as participation of entrepreneurs from target population groups in mainstream programmes. There is also minimal monitoring and evaluation being undertaken to evaluate the outcomes and impact of policies and programmes.

### Main recommendations

- Align entrepreneurship and labour market policies and streamline policy objectives to ensure more comprehensive entrepreneurship policy is developed. This could help limit existing discrepancies between entrepreneurship and labour market policies, including how employers and employees are treated at the political level.
- Design a dedicated strategy for inclusive entrepreneurship with defined goals and objectives to address the gaps in entrepreneurship among people from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of the different measures and schemes in order to identify outcomes and impacts of existing support with the aim of improving the design of the measures, particularly for their relevancy and effectiveness among target population group.

## CONDITIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT

There is slightly less churn in the business population relative to the EU average as both business entry and exit rates are below average (Table 1). However, both rates increased between 2020 and 2021 as did the EU average. About 11% of the working population is self-employed, which is slightly below the EU average. However, many have employees. About 41% of the self-employed have employees whereas the EU average is only 31%.

Overall, there are numerous entrepreneurship support programmes and measures for new and established entrepreneurs. Many are open to all and do not specifically target inclusive entrepreneurship target groups. For example, Business Start-up Service (*Gründerservice*) of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber provides nationwide personal consulting and support services to entrepreneurs. While support schemes offered by the Chamber of Commerce are open to all, the Chamber considers the diversity of Austrian entrepreneurs in its organisation and programming. They have a dedicated department that works on managing the target groups (*Zielgruppenmanagement*), which has several sub-departments for specific target population groups, such as youth (*Junge Wirtschaft*) and women (*Frau in der Wirtschaft*). The role of these dedicated teams is to support the inclusive entrepreneurship target population groups, represent their interests and support the overall accessibility of mainstream entrepreneurship policies and programmes to those from under-represented and disadvantaged groups.

**Table 1. Conditions for entrepreneurship**

	Business entry rate	Business exit rate	Expectation to start a business in next 3 years	Total Early-stage Activities (TEA) rate	Share of TEA that is growth-oriented (create >19 jobs over 5 years)	Self-employment	
						Rate	% with employees
Year	2021	2021	2018-2023	2018-2023	2018-2023	2023	2023
Austria	6% ▲	5% ▲	8% ▲	6% ▼	3% ▼	11% ↔	41% ▲
EU average	11% ▲	8% ▲	12% ▲	7% ▲	14% ▲	13% ↔	31% ▼

Note: Up and down arrows indicate an increase or decrease relative to the previous period, i.e. previous year for annual indicators or previous period (2018-22) 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%. 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). Austria participated in the GEM survey during the period 2018-23 except for the following years: 2019, 2021 and 2023. Self-employment rate measures the proportion of those in employment who are self-employed.

Source: Eurostat (2024), Business Demography Statistics; Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) (2024), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey; Eurostat (2024), Employment and Unemployment (LFS) Database.

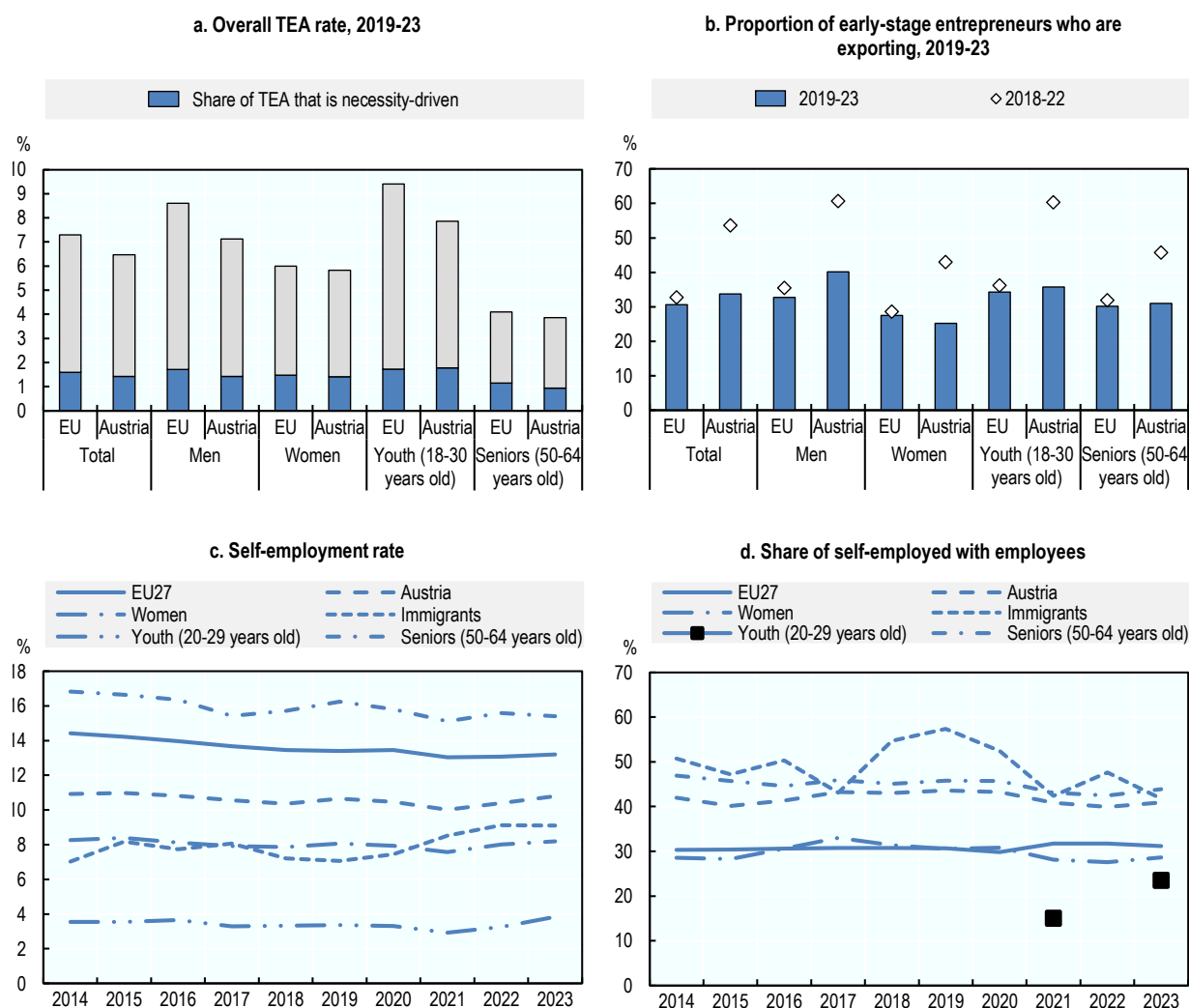
## INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRENDS

Austrian people are involved in early-stage entrepreneurship activities at similar rates to the EU average (Figure 1). A gender gap in entrepreneurship rates remains as men are 1.2 times more likely than women to be working on a start-up over the period 2019-23. Moreover, necessity-based entrepreneurship (i.e. new start-ups that have been launched because the person could not secure salaried employment) is also on par with the EU average across most population groups, except among youth. The share of early-stage entrepreneurs who launched their businesses out of necessity (23%) was higher than the EU average (18%). Overall, Austrian entrepreneurs are more likely than the EU average to report that they are exporting their products and/or services – 34% vs. 31% in the period 2019-23.

The total self-employment rate remained constant over the past decade around 11% yet remains below the EU average (13%) in 2023. Although among immigrant entrepreneurs, self-employment rates have increased in recent years from 7% in 2012 to 9% in 2023. Despite self-employed workers being more likely

to have employees than on average in the EU, these rates have declined following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, 44% of self-employed reported having employees compared to 41% in 2023. This is particularly noticeable among self-employed immigrants with only 42% reporting that they had employees in 2023 compared to 57% in 2019.

Figure 1. Inclusive entrepreneurship trends



Note: The early-stage entrepreneurship rate (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 2018-23 except for the following years: 2019, 2021 and 2023.

Source: Eurostat (2024), Employment and Unemployment (LFS) Database; Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) (2024), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey.

## INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY ASSESSMENT

There are tailored entrepreneurship support programmes for **women** (Table B.1), including the Let's Empower Austria (LEA). LEA was established in 2022 by the Austrian Fund for the Empowerment and Advancement of Women and Girls with the aim to provide women different role models. While not all programmes are dedicated or targeted to women entrepreneurs, some offer additional support to women. For example, the First Incubator of Austria Wirtschaftsservice offers grants for innovative business ideas

in the early stages of development. While the programme offers grants that cover up to 90% of the costs for participants, women founders can receive grants covering up to 100% of costs. Financial programmes for pre-seed and seed funding by Austria Wirtschaftsservice also consider gender and provide additional resources for women entrepreneurs.

Support for **immigrant** (Table B.2) entrepreneurship has increased. The Austrian Business Agency has established an advisory service to provide advice and assistance to entrepreneurs and self-employed workers who have applied for residence permits. The Austrian Business Agency also has a dedicated unit for entrepreneurs who plan to relocate their businesses to Austria called "INVEST in AUSTRIA". Moreover, entrepreneurship support services are provided in 17 languages through the Vienna Business Agency (*Wirtschaftsagentur Wien*) with the aim of helping people interested in setting up a business or becoming self-employed in Austria to do so.

Entrepreneurship policy has placed a strong focus on supporting **youth** (Table B.3) to pursue business creation and self-employment in recent years. This includes the [Entrepreneurship Education – Map of Actions for Children and Young Adults](#), which is a national action plan for entrepreneurship education developed in co-operation between the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW), the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Federal Chancellery as well as about 65 additional entrepreneurship stakeholders, including Austrian Economic Chamber WKÖ, Federation of Austrian Industries (IV), Austrian National Bank (OeNB), universities, initiatives, foundations and others. The plan sets out a joint vision and objectives for a future-proof Austria by 2025 with the engaged stakeholders agreeing to actively work towards the objectives outlined in the plan. An [interim report](#) was presented at the Entrepreneurship Summit in November 2023, which describes how the actions and measures are being implemented as well as outcomes for those that have already been implemented. For example, a learning app “How fit are you for starting a business?” was launched in 2022. It provides resources and tools for young people to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment (e.g. assessment of entrepreneurial spirit, application of setting up a company, opportunity and risk analysis, etc.). The app has been used by over 400 young people (students) and 27 classes have been set up on the app by teachers. An additional report on the action plan is anticipated in 2025.

There are no dedicated entrepreneurship measures currently in place for **seniors** who wish to pursue business creation and self-employment (Table B.4). Moreover, there is only one scheme that aims to support the **unemployed** (Table B.5). The Business Start-up Programme (UGP) of the Austrian Public Employment Service offers tailored services to the unemployed and continues to have high demand and take-up rates. The Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities was founded in 2021 and provides entrepreneurship support to **people with disabilities** (Table B.6) through networking, outreach, advisory services and advocacy. The start-up subsidies for the self-employed (*Überbrückungszuschuss für Selbstständige*) offers a monetary allowance of up to 50% of expenses incurred during the start-up phase to entrepreneurs with disabilities.

## NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The procedure and criteria for the residence permit (*Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte*) for immigrants have been simplified, and there are now specific permits for start-up founders and the self-employed. For example, the minimum investment transfer for start-ups has been reduced from EUR 50 000 to EUR 30 000. Additionally, an advisory service has been created within the Austrian Business Agency to provide advice and assistance to applicants for residence permits.

New mainstream entrepreneurship measures were also introduced in 2024 to facilitate business creation. For example, the minimum value of the authorised capital of a limited liability company has been reduced



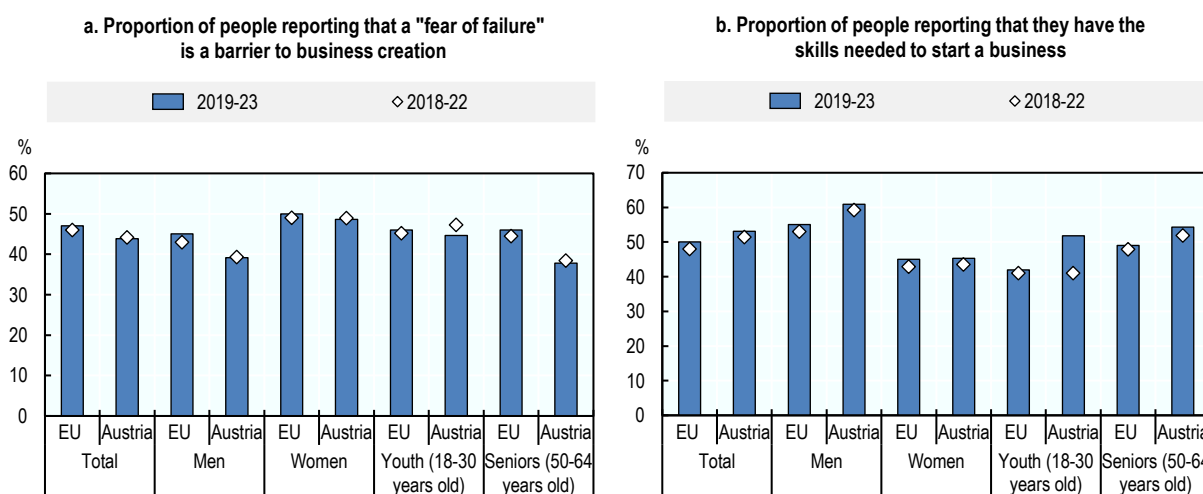
to EUR 10 000. Additionally, a new legal form, the Flexible Capital Company, has been introduced specifically for innovative start-ups and founders. This form allows for simplified employee share ownership through the possibility of creating company value shares of up to 25% of the share capital and offering these shares to employees for a payment of 1%. Moreover, a new platform that provides an overview of the start-up ecosystem was introduced by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Austrian Economic Chamber. The platform is called Start-up Landscape and allows users to search for and obtain information about start-ups.

## RISK FACTORS FOR INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

About 44% of Austrians report that a “fear of failure” is a barrier to starting a business, which is less than the EU average (Figure 2). The share is highest among women (49%) and lowest among seniors (38%). The increased focus on improving entrepreneurship skills and education have led to higher rates of reported entrepreneurship skills and knowledge compared to the EU. This is particularly noticeable among youth as they reported skill levels that were nearly 24% higher than the EU average.

More broadly, the approach to entrepreneurship policy, notably inclusive entrepreneurship policy, has led to vague objectives on how to increase entrepreneurship rates, particularly for women and immigrants. Moreover, many schemes and support programmes lack impact evaluation, limiting the ability to measure the impact of the outcomes. There is also a need to strengthen the framework conditions for inclusive entrepreneurship and streamline entrepreneurship and labour market policy to ensure more comprehensive entrepreneurship policy is developed and to limit the discrepancy between employers and employees at the political level.

Figure 2. Barriers to entrepreneurship, 2019-23



Note: Austria participated in the GEM survey during the period 2018-23 except for the following years: 2019, 2021 and 2023.

Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) (2024), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase diversity in entrepreneurship in Austria, the government could:

- Align entrepreneurship and labour market policies and streamline policy objectives to ensure more comprehensive entrepreneurship policy is developed. This could help limit existing discrepancies between entrepreneurship and labour market policies, including how employers and employees are treated at the political level.
- Design a dedicated strategy for inclusive entrepreneurship with defined goals and objectives to address the gaps in entrepreneurship among people from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of the different measures and schemes in order to identify outcomes and impacts of existing support with the aim of improving the design of the measures, particularly for their relevancy and effectiveness among target population groups.
- Create dedicated and/or tailored measures for inclusive entrepreneurship population groups, particularly for senior entrepreneurs as there is currently no targeted measures or programmes available.

## 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**

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

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

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

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

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

		<b>Tailored:</b> Are public programmes tailored for the target group (i.e. dedicated)?	<b>Consultation:</b> Are the targeted entrepreneurs consulted during the design of programmes?	<b>Outreach:</b> Are appropriate outreach methods used for different target groups?	<b>Delivery:</b> Are specialist organisations used to deliver programmes?	<b>Take-up:</b> Does the support have high take-up among target group?	<b>Scale:</b> Is the scale of available support sufficient?	<b>Impact:</b> Does evaluation evidence show a positive impact?	<b>Integrated:</b> Is the programme delivered linked other related supports?	<b>Follow-up:</b> 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 by written procedure in October 2024 by 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.