

The Missing Entrepreneurs

**Inclusive Entrepreneurship Policy  
Country Assessment Notes:  
Slovak Republic**

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 SLOVAK REPUBLIC

## KEY MESSAGES

### Inclusive entrepreneurship rates and trends

- People across all target groups are more likely to be actively working on or managing a new start-up compared to the European Union (EU) average in 2019-23, notably youth entrepreneurs (16% vs. 9%).
- The total self-employment rate remained constant and above the EU average over the past decade at around 15%.

### Approach to inclusive entrepreneurship policy

- Most entrepreneurship support schemes offer general support to the public, yet there are some tailored inclusive entrepreneurship measures available.
- The most significant inclusive entrepreneurship support schemes aim to support business creation among the unemployed, youth and women. The most common measures include training, coaching, mentoring and some financial support.

### Policy strengths

- A considerable strength lies in the research conducted in the area of inclusive and cross-generational entrepreneurship, which provides specific recommendations for policy makers and practitioners.
- Many private sector actors and non-government organisations are active in providing entrepreneurship support programmes, particularly for youth entrepreneurship. These initiatives often include mentorship programmes, start-up incubators, funding and networking opportunities, which are designed to foster innovation and growth among the youth entrepreneurs.

### Policy gaps and areas for improvement

- Many entrepreneurship programmes are often short-term and project-based leading to disruptions in the continuity of support due in part to the EU structure funds cycles.
- Current entrepreneurship policies remain largely general and fail to address the unique needs and circumstances of specific under-represented and disadvantaged populations.

### Main recommendations

- Implement tailored measures in general entrepreneurship support programmes to foster greater inclusion of (potential) entrepreneurs from under-represented and disadvantaged groups. This could include dedicated outreach measures to target groups to improve take-up rates, which can be achieved through partnerships with other stakeholders (i.e. non-governmental organisations, universities and schools, role models, business networks, etc.).
- Improve consultation and co-ordination of policy makers, entrepreneurship support actors and organisations, and other entrepreneurial ecosystem stakeholders in the design and implementation of inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes by ensuring representation of members of target population groups in advisory bodies as well as in the entrepreneurship support programme management. This provides a mechanism to address the needs of the target groups, improve outreach to target groups and ensure higher take-up rates.

## CONDITIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Business entry rates are similar to the EU average, while business exit rates were higher than the EU average in 2021 (Table 1). Both entry and exit rates increased between 2020 and 2021. People are more likely to expect to start a business than the EU average, and more people were actively working on starting or managing a new business than on average in the EU in the period 2019-23. However, entrepreneurs are less as likely to be involved in growth-oriented early-stage entrepreneurship than their EU counterparts over the same period.

Entrepreneurship support measures are accessible and widely utilised. However, they are not specifically designed for particular under-represented or disadvantaged population groups. Generally, there are no quotas or targeted mechanisms to ensure the participation of people from inclusive entrepreneurship target population groups. Labour offices have tailored outreach for the unemployed, particularly those who are officially registered as jobseekers. While this targeted outreach helps to some extent, there is an overall lack of specific measures during intake to encourage broader participation from under-represented and disadvantaged groups of the population.

**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	2019-23	2019-23	2019-23	2023	2023
Slovak Republic	11% ▲	11% ▲	15% ▲	11% ▼	8% ▼	15% ▲	18% ▲
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). Self-employment rate measures the proportion of those in employment who are self-employed. Slovak Republic participated in the GEM survey every year during the period 2018-23.

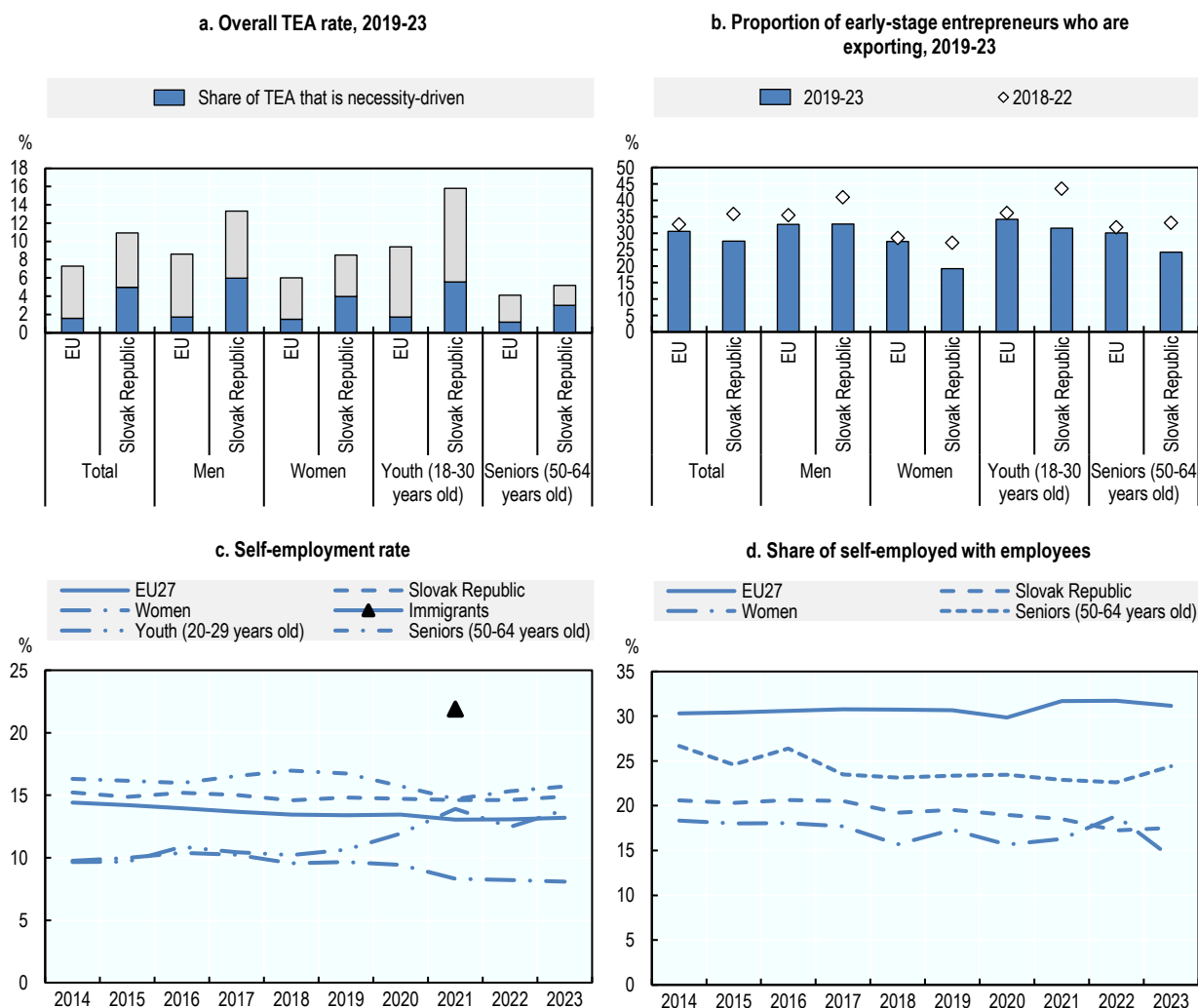
Source: Eurostat (2024), Business Demography Statistics; Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) (2024), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey; Eurostat (2024), Employment and Unemployment (LFS) Database.

## INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRENDS

People are involved in early-stage entrepreneurship activities at higher rates to the EU average (Figure 1). People across all inclusive entrepreneurship target groups are more likely to be actively working on or managing a new start-up compared to the EU average in 2019-23, particularly youth entrepreneurs (16% vs. 9%). However, women remain less likely than men to be involved in early-stage entrepreneurship (9% vs. 13%). Entrepreneurs are twice as likely to launch a business because they could not secure salaried employment (i.e. necessity entrepreneurship) than on average in the EU. About 58% of seniors report starting their business out of necessity relative to the EU average of 28%. Women (47%) and youth (16%) are also more likely to pursue entrepreneurship due to limited options in the labour market than their EU counterparts (25% and 18% respectively). Entrepreneurs are also less likely than the EU average to report exporting their products and/or services (28% vs. 31%), notably among women (19% vs. 28%).

Overall, the total self-employment rate remained constant and above the EU average over the past decade around 15%. Youth (14%) and seniors (16%) were more likely to be self-employed than on average in the EU (7% and 17% respectively), while women were slightly less likely (8% vs. 9%). Self-employed workers were also less likely to employ others compared to the EU average (18% vs. 31%) in 2023, notably self-employed women (14% vs. 26%).

Figure 1. Inclusive entrepreneurship trends



Note: Slovak Republic participated in the GEM survey every year during the period 2018-23. 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.

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

Most entrepreneurship support schemes offer general support to the public, yet there are some tailored inclusive entrepreneurship measures available. The most significant inclusive entrepreneurship support

schemes aim to support business creation among the unemployed, youth and women. The most common measures include training, coaching, mentoring and some financial support. For example, the Slovak Business Agency (SBA), through its National Business Centre, organised events accessible to participants in the regions with a high proportion of ethnic minorities, mothers on maternity or parental leave, the unemployed, seniors and people with disabilities. The private sector has also developed entrepreneurship support initiatives. However, these efforts are primarily focused on young, innovative and high-growth-oriented entrepreneurs. These initiatives often include mentorship programmes, start-up incubators, funding and networking opportunities, which are designed to foster innovation and growth among young people. While these programmes are highly beneficial, they highlight a gap in support for other under-represented groups in the labour market.

Although it is not an entrepreneurship strategy, the draft [National Strategy for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities in the Slovak Republic for 2021-2027](#) and the Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities for 2021-2027 explicitly addresses **women's** entrepreneurship and defines specific goals in the area of women entrepreneurship (Table B.1). The SBA offers free short-term expert consulting services for women entrepreneurs, focused on business development and addressing various specific aspects of entrepreneurship. However, these activities concluded at the end of 2023. Currently, the SBA is preparing to launch a new national project that will continue the previous support services. However, the offering of tailored services will be scaled back in the new programme. Moreover, the SBA has also organised several events aimed at motivating women to start their own businesses and supporting women's entrepreneurship since 2022, including [Women in business-How to succeed without losing your mind](#), [Women who succeeded in business](#) and [Woman, transformational leader](#). The SBA is also a partner in the [RE-FEM project](#) (2022-25), which addresses gender inequality in entrepreneurship and unequal access to educational opportunities. The project aims to empower women entrepreneurs through training and mentoring to help them sustain resilient businesses in the post-COVID era. It has been supported by the Erasmus+ programme. The [WE.Circular](#) also provides tailored support to women entrepreneurs in the Danube region with the aim of increasing their digital and industrial capacities for a sustainable circular transition. The WE.Circular project is being implemented from January 2024 to June 2026.

There are entrepreneurship support services available for **immigrant** entrepreneurs (Table B.2). For example, the SBA in Bratislava offered free short-term and long-term individual consultations for entrepreneurs based in the Bratislava Region. These consultations were also available for foreigners who have a foreign person's business establishment in the Bratislava Region. A similar programme was also offered at a national level through branch offices. However, the activities concluded at the end of 2023. Currently, the SBA is preparing to launch a new national project that will continue the previous support services, yet most of the new support will become general support services.

**Youth** entrepreneurship (Table B.3) is a policy priority. The [Strategy of Slovak Republic for Youth 2021 – 2028](#) addresses youth entrepreneurship and proposes measures that aim to create, develop and implement programmes for the development and strengthening of enterprising and entrepreneurial skills of young people, including mentoring and coaching, with an extension to social and green economy, as well as creation and networking of co-working spaces and hubs. The National Plan for Strengthening the Youth Guarantee in the Slovak Republic with a view to 2030 also support the provisions of financial contributions for engaging in self-employment. Many private and non-governmental organisations are also active in youth entrepreneurship. For example, Junior Chamber Slovakia organises events for young entrepreneurs such as Young Innovative Entrepreneur, Slovak University Start-up Cup or Student Entrepreneurship Award. Junior Achievement Slovakia helps teachers and their students to develop entrepreneurship, economic thinking, financial literacy and employability skills, including digital skills, in primary and secondary school pupils.



There are no policies or business financing programmes specifically targeted at **senior** entrepreneurs (Table B.4). Seniors rely on general, mainstream support and financing options. Jobseekers who are formally registered (Table B.5) can also receive a self-employment allowance through the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. There is a particular emphasis on supporting disadvantaged jobseekers who have completed professional counselling and training for engaging in self-employment. There are also limited entrepreneurship specific support measures available for **people with disabilities** (Table B.6). Dedicated support is available to people with disabilities who have limited access to the labour market. Support includes financial contributions to partly cover the costs associated with becoming self-employed. If they are self-employed, they can benefit from reduced health insurance contributions as well as receive a partial reimbursement of operating costs related to self-employed (i.e. contribution to cover the operating costs of an adapted workplace as well as transportation costs for employees).

## NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

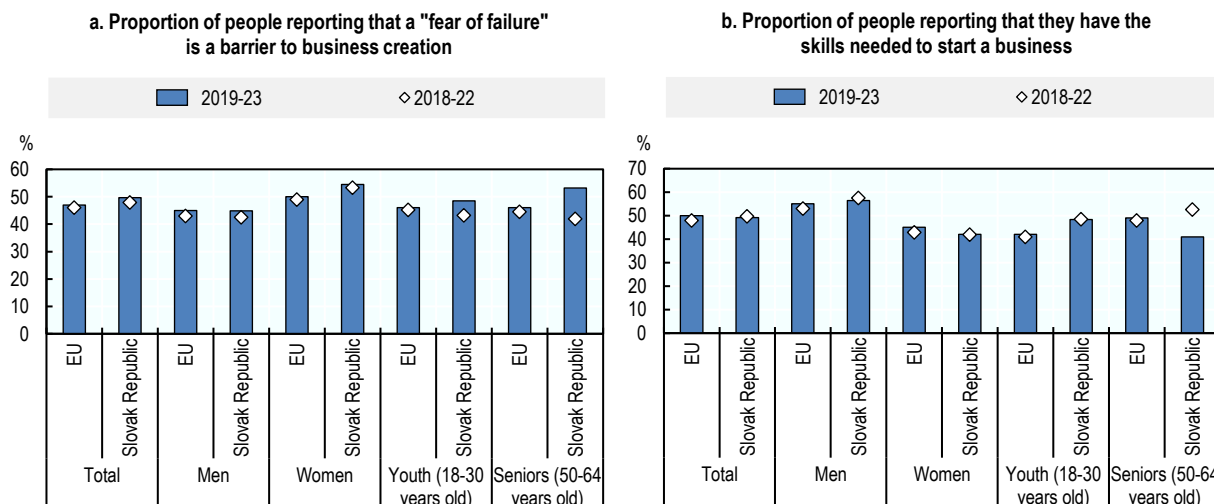
An important step towards supporting entrepreneurship at the national level was taken with the curricular reform of elementary education co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth. The “enterprising” component has been explicitly elaborated and integrated into the defined educational areas. The reformed approach to education has been recently piloted across several schools and will be gradually implemented in the entire school network.

## RISK FACTORS FOR INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

One important barrier to business creation is the “fear of failure”. About half of people report that a “fear of failure” is a barrier to starting a business, which is slightly more than the EU average (Figure 2). The share is highest among women (55%) followed by seniors (53%). Another barrier to business creation is a lack of entrepreneurial skills and knowledge. People reported similar rates of entrepreneurship skills relative to the EU average (49% vs. 50%) in the period 2019-23. However, a gender gap in entrepreneurship skills remains as women are less likely than men to report having the necessary skills and knowledge for business creation (42% vs. 56%).

There are several areas for improvement for inclusive entrepreneurship policy, notably around discontinuation of initiatives. Many programmes are often project-based, which can lead to disruptions in the continuity of support. More can be done to strengthen the consultation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of policies and programmes. Engagement and co-ordination among stakeholders can help to ensure policies and programmes are addressing the needs of target groups as well as be leveraged to raise awareness of programmes through dedicated outreach channels.

Figure 2. Barriers to entrepreneurship



Note: Slovak Republic participated in the GEM survey every year during the period 2018-23.

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 the Slovak Republic, the government could:

- Design an entrepreneurship action plan that includes strategic objectives for target population groups, policies, programmes and funding for inclusive entrepreneurship support. This can serve as a framework to ensure the availability and continuity of more long-term, stable entrepreneurship support initiatives, notably for entrepreneurs from under-represented and disadvantaged population groups.
- Implement tailored measures in general entrepreneurship support programmes to foster greater inclusion of (potential) entrepreneurs from under-represented and disadvantaged groups. This could include dedicated outreach measures to target groups to improve take-up rates, which can be achieved through partnerships with other stakeholders (i.e. non-governmental organisations, universities and schools, role models, business networks, etc.).
- Improve consultation and co-ordination of policy makers, entrepreneurship support actors and organisations, and other entrepreneurial ecosystem stakeholders in the design and implementation of inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes by ensuring representation of members of target population groups in advisory bodies as well as in the entrepreneurship support programme management. This provides a mechanism to address the needs of the target groups, improve outreach to target groups and ensure higher take-up rates.

## 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	✓								
	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 November 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.