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**BUSINESS**atOECD

*Business at OECD (BIAC)*

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# SME and Entrepreneurship Committee

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**Annual Activity Report 2022**

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# Message

## from the Committee Chair

In 2022, the enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis posed significant challenges to SMEs. Although to varying degrees, SMEs struggled globally with decreased productivity and revenues, access to affordable energy and inputs, and maintaining production and commercial business operations.

This year, our *Business at OECD* (BIAC) SME and Entrepreneurship Committee saw it as crucial that SMEs continue the path towards recovery and strengthening resiliency that was pursued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Just as the first wave of the pandemic encouraged SMEs to digitalize their operations and benefit from enhanced efficiency and integration into global value chains, the energy crisis demonstrated the utility of the green transition as a means for energy security and resilience in the context of enduring market uncertainties.

As institutional stakeholders, it is our continuous goal to recommend and support effective and trusted policies that guided and assisted SMEs in pursuit of the twin transition. This year we held several in-person events in Budapest and in Paris, submitted comments on OECD Council recommendations, participated in multiple OECD meetings, and produced two SME surveys.

In 2023 we will continue our strong cooperation with the OECD at each level to help foster better market conditions for SMEs, and to see new positive developments as a result of our ongoing and proactive collaboration. I look forward to continuing our work together next year, in efforts to strengthen our global SMEs.



**Patrik Kovács**

*Business at OECD* SME and Entrepreneurship Committee  
Chair

# Context

The OECD is a global leader of statistics, forecasts, and evidence-based policy recommendations in the area of SMEs and Entrepreneurship. Its publications, such as SME and Entrepreneurship Outlook, SME digitalisation to “Build Back Better”, are closely followed by policymakers and industry.

The OECD has strongly contributed to the G20 SME agenda, in particular with regards to SME finance, with the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on SME Financing and the report on G20/OECD Effective Approaches for Implementing the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on SME Financing, or through its contribution to platforms like the GPFi.

*Business at OECD* (BIAC) is the officially recognized business advisory group to the OECD and represents the leading business and employers’ organizations in OECD countries. The work of our SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee enables private sector representatives to participate in high-level OECD sessions and regular policy meetings, exchange and network with governments and OECD leadership, access information and contribute to OECD policy recommendations, and build momentum with private sector peers to impact policy-making at all stages.

This activity report provides selected year highlights of the *Business at OECD* SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee in 2022, and includes a list of Committee releases and sessions. In line with the OECD’s priorities and the efforts of many others in our Committees, our activities in 2022 focused on aligning core issues of the Committee with SMEs digitalization, among other important entrepreneurship topics.

# Our activity highlights

## March

In March, together with our Hungarian member VOSZ, we convened a high-level in-person conference in Budapest, “Small Business, Big Deal”, with the participation of OECD DSG Mr. Yoshiki Takeuchi and Hungarian State Secretary. The conference highlighted the practical experience of SMEs since the Covid-19 pandemic to inform policy discussions and scale up national best practices.



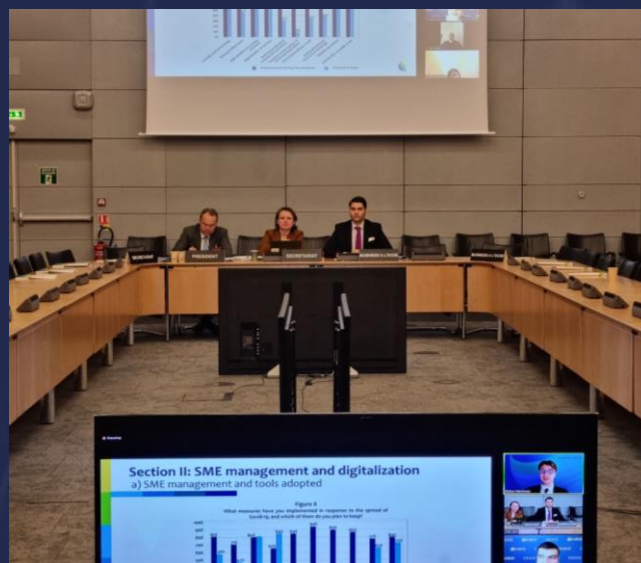
(DSG Takeuchi addressing “Small Business, Big Deal” conference participants)

## April

In April, we launched the findings report of our *Business at OECD* Survey “[Looking for the New Normal](#)”. The survey illustrates how SMEs adapt to the new challenges and changing business practices, and what digital tools will be useful in this context.

A *Business at OECD* delegation led by Chair Patrik Kovács (VOSZ) participated in the session of the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship Committee (CSMEE) and convened business priorities for the programme of work of the organization in this field.

*Business at OECD* also provided substantial comments multiple draft versions of the OECD Council Recommendation on SME and Entrepreneurship policy and its guiding principles, which was later adopted at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May.



(Launch of our “Looking for the New Normal” Survey Report)

## June

In May, a *Business at OECD* delegation participated in the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting session, where the OECD adopted the Recommendation on SME and Entrepreneurship Policy, which offers a coherent and strategic approach to SME and entrepreneurship policies, encompassing a mix of targeted and horizontal policy dimensions and placing emphasis on effective governance mechanisms.

Also in June, a *Business at OECD* delegation participated in an OECD D4SME Workshop on SMEs & Hybrid Retail: adapting to the new normal, where we reinforced our policy messages and findings from the April *Looking for the New Normal* survey report.

## October

On 4 October, our committee chair Patrik Kovacs spoke at *Business at OECD 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* event, where he outlined the important work of BIAC and particularly its SME and Entrepreneurship Committee, signaling how SMEs are the backbone of our economies globally.



(Patrik Kovacs speaking at *Business at OECD 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* event)

## November

In November, a *Business at OECD* delegation participated to the OECD SME week, which consisted of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable of the Digital for SMEs (D4SME) Global Initiative.

Our committee chair, Patrik Kovacs, and vice-chair Martina Malakova reiterated business policy priorities at these meetings, gathering several OECD Ministers, government and private sector representatives.



(Our Executive Director, Hanni Rosenbaum, and Patrik Kovacs at the opening session of the *D4SME High-Level Roundtable*)

## December

In December, responding to the global spikes in energy prices, we have conducted a [global SME survey](#) on the impact of the energy crisis. The survey illustrates what are the new challenges SMEs face and what tools have been successful to weather the storm.

# Sessions

## Our Meetings with the OECD and Governments

### ***Business at OECD Sessions***

**22 March**

Joint *Business at OECD* – VOSZ Hybrid Conference – “Small Business, Big Deal”

**13 April**

*Business at OECD* “Looking for the New Normal” Survey Report Launch Event

### ***Engagement in High-Level OECD Sessions***

**9-10 June**

OECD Ministerial Council Meeting

**23 November**

D4SME High – Level Roundtable

### ***Engagement in OECD Committee Sessions***

**12-13 March**

OECD Committee on Industry, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)

**12-13 April**

OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)

**21-22 November**

OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)

**29-1 November  
- December**

OECD Committee on Industry, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)

# Our **key releases**



[Looking for the New Normal](#)  
(April 2022)

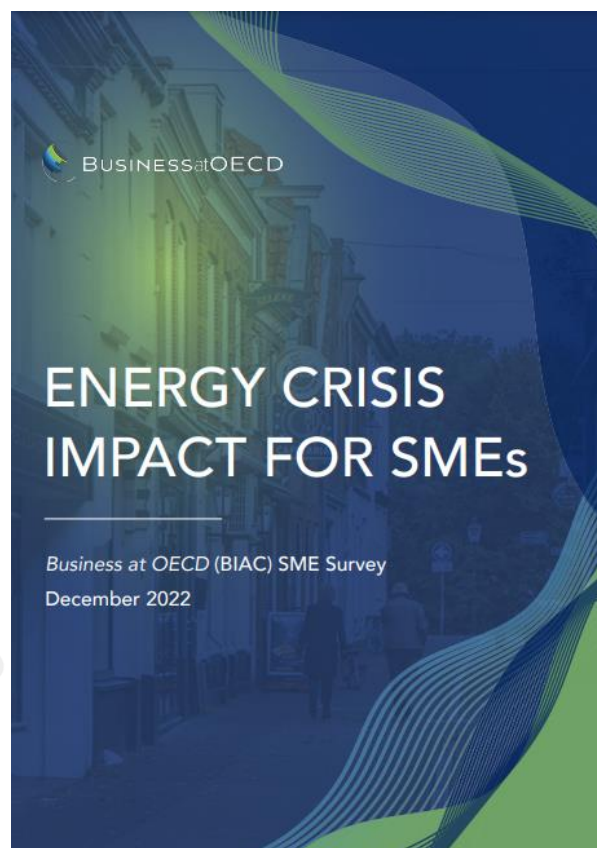
## **Looking for the New Normal**

This report summarizes key findings from our global SME survey, on identifying key challenges SMEs globally have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, which tools, and particularly, digital tools have they adopted to tackle these challenges, and which of these new tools will they continue to use and invest in, in their future business operations.



[Key Messages to OECD Ministers:](#)  
(June 2022)

## **The Future We Want: Business Contribution to the 2022 OECD Ministerial Council**



[Energy Crisis Impact for SMEs](#)  
(December 2022)

## **Energy Crisis Impact for SMEs**

This report summarizes key findings from our global SME survey, on key challenges SMEs globally face in the context of the energy crisis.

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# Committee **Leadership**

Chair

**Patrik Kovács**

Hungarian National Association of  
Entrepreneurs and Employers (VOSZ)  
(Hungary)

Vice Chair

**Lars Jagrén**

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise  
(Sweden)

Vice Chair

**Martina Le Gall Maláková**

Elektrik (Slovakia)

Vice Chair

**Fernando Antonio Treviño  
Núñez**

Rivadeneira Treviño y de campo  
(Mexico)

Vice Chair

**Guy Primrose**

Suasor Commercial Consultants  
(Australia)



*(Business at OECD Chair, Charles Rick Johnston, addressing our SME and Entrepreneurship Committee members and stakeholders, at “Small Business, Big Deal” Conference in Budapest in March 2022)*





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Established in 1962, Business at OECD (BIAC) stands for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and societal prosperity. Through Business at OECD, national businesses and employers' federations representing over 7 million companies provide and receive expertise via our participation with the OECD and governments promoting competitive economies and better business.