



ONLINE

ENTERPRISES

# SME PRODUCTIVITY

## A COURSE FOR POLICY-MAKERS

7 – 18 DECEMBER 2020

 2 WEEKS, 10 HRS/WEEK

*Information Note*



International  
Labour  
Organization



OECD



# INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Novel estimates of employment by firm size, suggest that the number of employees within SMEs in the formal sector almost doubled in the 132 countries for which estimates are available; with SMEs' share of total employment rising from 31 to 35 per cent. SMEs and young firms are also often more dynamic with respect to employment growth.

Despite this, there are persisting decent work deficits in these contexts, particularly in developing and emerging economies. Often, they show significantly lower levels of productivity than large enterprises. In SMEs low productivity often coexists with poor working conditions, low market share, a low skilled workforce and ineffective management practices.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This training course aims to enhance the skills of policy makers and practitioners in assessing and designing policies to improve productivity and working conditions in SMEs. The course hopes to inspire policy makers and practitioners to adopt a systemic approach to SME productivity that encompasses an effective combination of macro- and meso-level policies, the creation of a conducive business environment and the strengthening of SME support institutions, together with intervention at the enterprise level. Special attention will be given to strategies that promote productivity at the corporate level and ways to scale-up corporate-level productivity programmes.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants in this training course will:

- identify the drivers of productivity in SMEs;
- identify some of the linkages between productivity and working conditions in SMEs;
- review productivity measurement methods and indicators;
- examine the role of framework policy measures and SME targeted policies in enhancing SME productivity and working conditions;
- analyse firm-level interventions to enhance productivity and improve working conditions;
- analyse policy options to improve SME productivity and working conditions;
- discuss and examine methods to share the gains of productivity enhancement in SMEs.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

The training course is specifically designed for policy makers and practitioners involved in the design and implementation of policies and related interventions affecting the productivity and working conditions of SMEs, such as decision makers and managers representing governments, workers' and employers' organizations, productivity organizations and SME agencies.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course will be delivered by ILO and OECD specialists with the assistance of trainers from the International Training Centre of the ILO. The course will also incorporate relevant experiences from other national and international agencies. The draft training agenda is shown below:

| Monday 7 December   | Tuesday 8 December   | Wednesday 9 December                | Thursday 10 December                      |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Webinar 1   | Self-guided module   | Webinar 2                           | Self-guided module                        |
| Drivers of productivity and working conditions in SMEs          | SMEs: Socio-economic relevance and constraints                 | Productivity and how it is measured | SME policies for productivity enhancement |
| Friday 11 December  | Monday 14 December   | Tuesday 15 December                 | Wednesday 16 December                     |
| Webinar 3   | Webinar 4  | Self-guided module                  | Webinar 5                                 |
| The role of industrial policies in productivity enhancement     | Enterprise-level interventions to enhance productivity in SMEs | Access to finance for SMEs          | Innovation policies for SMEs              |
| Thursday 17 December  | Friday 18 December   |                                     |   |
| Self-guided module  | Webinar 6  |                                     |   |
| Skills development policies and strategies for SME productivity | Sharing the gains of productivity enhancement                  |                                     |   |

## LANGUAGE

The course is offered in English.

## INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Register for the course online using the link:

<https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9712924/en>

Deadline for registration: **15 November 2020**

Cost: **980 Euros**

For more information on the course, please write to: [productivity@itcilo.org](mailto:productivity@itcilo.org)

## WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

## INFO

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

#### International Training Centre of the ILO

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