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 **SME Policy Index**

**Western Balkans and Turkey 2022**

 **ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT FOR EUROPE**

**DIMENSION 7 - Standards and technical regulations**

**Qualitative indicators government questionnaire**

# Standards and technical regulations assessment framework

**Standards and technical regulations** assesses the quality infrastructure systems and procedures required in the Western Balkans and Turkey to facilitate small and medium-sized enterprises’ (SMEs) access to the EU Single Market.

This dimension is structured around three sub-dimensions:

* Sub-dimension 1: **Overall co-ordination and general measures**, which assesses the strategic documents and institutional framework for quality infrastructure co-ordination,
* Sub-dimension 2: **Harmonisation with the EU *acquis*,** which analyses the capacities of quality infrastructure institutions as well as their alignment with international and European rules for technical regulations, standardisation, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment and market surveillance,

Sub-dimension 3: **SME access to standards**, which explores government initiatives to enhance and support access.

Figure 1. Standards and technical regulations assessment framework

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| **Dimension 7: Standards and technical regulations** |
| **Outcome indicators**Percentage of exports to the EU Single Market in total exportsPercentage annual growth of exports to the EU Single MarketPercentage share of manufactured products in total exports to the EU Single Market |
| **Sub-dimension 7.1:**Overall co-ordination and general measures | **Sub-dimension 7.2:**Harmonisation with the EU acquis | **Sub-dimension 7.3:**SME access to standards |
|  | **Thematic block 1:** Technical regulations | **Thematic block 2:** Standardisation | **Thematic block 3:** Accreditation | **Thematic block 4:** Conformity assessment | **Thematic block 5:**Metrology | **Thematic block 6:**Market surveillance | **Thematic block 1:**Awareness raising and information | **Thematic block 2:**SMEs’ participation in developing standards | **Thematic block 3:**Financial support to SMEs |
| **Quantitative indicators**Percentage of EU standards transposed into national standardsPercentage of transposition by “endorsement” and “cover page method” in total number of transposed EU standardsNumber of accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs)Number of annual market surveillance inspections |

## Sub-dimension 1: Overall co-ordination and general measures

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| **Question** | **Response *[expand box as necessary]*** | **Evidence/Links** |
|  | **Is there a strategy and/or action plan on adoption and implementation of EU legislation[[1]](#footnote-2) on industrial products?**  | [ ] Yes, the strategy/action plan has been adopted.[ ] No, the proposal has been prepared.[ ] No, the proposal is in the preparatory phase.[ ] No. |  |
|  | If yes  | Please specify  |  |  |
|  | **Is there an SME designated portal where they can find all relevant information concerning the placement of products on the market and the export of them to the EU Single Market?**  | [ ] Yes, all relevant information is available online.[ ] Yes, some relevant information is available online.[ ] No, there is no such a portal. |  |
|  | **Is there a single contact point for exporters to the EU Single Market?**  | [ ] Yes, there is single contact point.[ ] No, but it is in the process of being developed.[ ] No, no such single contact point exists. |  |
|  | **Is there a designated government body responsible for the overall policy co-ordination on technical regulations[[2]](#footnote-3), standardisation[[3]](#footnote-4), accreditation[[4]](#footnote-5), conformity assessment[[5]](#footnote-6), metrology[[6]](#footnote-7) and market surveillance[[7]](#footnote-8)?**  | [ ] Yes.[ ] No. |  |
|  | If yes | Please specify. |  |  |
|  | **Please describe the system in place in your economy that serves as an aid to SMEs interested in exporting their products to the EU Single Market.**  |  |  |
|  | **Is there support and training offered to SMEs for their integration to the EU Digital Single Market[[8]](#footnote-9)?**  | [ ] Yes.[ ] No. |  |
|  | **Is there a regional collaboration with other Western Balkan/EU enlargement candidates related to the quality infrastructure (e.g. shared competencies)?** |  |  |
|  | If yes | Please describe |  |  |
| *Optional - Please provide any further information on Sub-dimension 1 in your economy that you deem relevant for the assessment* |  |  |

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| Self-assessed level (1 through 5, whole and half numbers) |  |
| Brief justification |  |
| Assessor name and institution |  |

## Sub-dimension 2: Harmonisation with the EU acquis

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|  | **Question** | **Response *[expand box as necessary]*** | **Evidence/Links** |
| **Thematic block 1. Technical regulations** |
|  | **Does the Government have a document (action plan or similar) on transposition of EU sectoral legislation in priority sectors?**  | [ ] Yes, the document is adopted.[ ] Yes, the document is prepared and in the process of adoption.[ ] No, the document in being developed.[ ] No, but it is planned.[ ] No, such a document is not planned. |  |
|  | **Has national legislation been amended to reflect EU sectoral legislation in priority sectors?**   | [ ] Yes, the legislation has been adopted.[ ] No, but a proposal has been prepared.[ ] No, the proposal is in the preparatory phase.[ ] No.  |  |
|  | a) | Since the previous assessment, has any additional national legislation been introduced to reflect EU legislation? If applicable, please provide examples.  |  |  |
|  | **Is there a webpage/portal/gateway for SMEs with relevant information about the new technical regulations and how to comply with them?**  | [ ] Yes, there is such a webpage. Please provide link to it. [ ] No, but it is being developed.[ ] No, it doesn't exist. |  |
|  | **Have the training needs of the institutions implementing technical regulations been assessed and addressed.**  | [ ] Yes, they have been assessed and personnel has undergone training. [ ] Yes, they have been assessed and the training will be carried out.[ ] No, it is in the process of assessment. |  |
|  | **Is there regular evaluation of technical regulations?**  | [ ] Yes, there is regular evaluation.[ ] Yes, but it is not regular.[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, how frequent is this evaluation? |  |  |
|  | b) | Have there been made any adjustments in technical regulations since the last assessment (January 2019) due to the results of the evaluations? If yes, please provide some examples.  |  |  |
|  | **What are your economy's priority sectors in technical regulation?** |  |
| **Questions related to digitalisation in technical regulation and to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on technical regulation** |
|  | **To what extent was the work of the technical regulatory authorities impaired by the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **Is there a specific strategy or action plan in place regarding the digitalisation of processes within authorities responsible for technical regulation?** |  |  |
|  | **Do the public authorities have designated staff and/or special working groups for the digitalisation of processes and activities within the area of technical regulation?** |  |  |
|  | **What lessons have been learnt in this area due to the pandemic and are there any strategic changes planned due to this experience?** |  |  |
| **Thematic block 2. Standardisation** |
|  | **Have any changes been made to the standardisation legislation since the last assessment (January 2019)? If yes, please specify what changes have been made and whether they are connected the EU acquis[[9]](#footnote-10).**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is your standards developing organisation an affiliate or full member of any EU standardisation organisation?** | [ ] Full member[ ] Affiliate member[ ] No member |  |
|  | **Is your standards developing organisation a member of any international standardisation organisation?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is the standardisation body adequately staffed and operational?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Has the standardisation body made a needs-assessment for investment and technical expertise required to participate in the European standards system?**  | [ ] Fully finalized, conflicting national standards abolished. [ ] Adoption continues with 80% of adopted standards.[ ] Adoption continues with 50% of adopted standards.[ ] Adoption started, up to 25% of adopted standards.[ ] No ENs adopted. |  |
|  | **Have European standards (EN) adopted in priority sectors?**  | [ ] Fully finalized, conflicting national standards abolished. [ ] Adoption continues with 80% of adopted standards.[ ] Adoption continues with 50% of adopted standards.[ ] Adoption started, up to 25% of adopted standards.[ ] No ENs adopted. |  |
|  | **Is there a strategy and/or action plan on education about standardisation?**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, does this strategy and/or action plan include aspects related to SME specific issues as well?  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | b) | If yes, is standardisation included into curricula of secondary or tertiary education? Please elaborate. | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is the standardisation law regularly evaluated?**   | [ ] Yes, there is regular evaluation.[ ] There has been evaluation but it is not regular.[ ] There has never been an evaluation |  |
|  | a) | If yes, how frequent is this evaluation? | [ ] Less than 3 years[ ] 3 years[ ] 5 years[ ] more than 5 years |  |
|  | b) | If yes, have any changes been made to the standardisation law since the last assessment (January 2019) based on the results of the evaluations? Please provide examples.  |  |  |
|  | **What are the staff numbers of the standardisation body? What is the annual budget of this body and what is the percentage of public financial contribution to the budget?** |  |  |
|  | **Is the National Standards Body (NSB) collaborating with other NSBs from the EU enlargement countries? If applicable, please provide examples of concrete collaboration projects.**  |  |  |
|  | **Have any additional revenue-earning services been introduced by the National Standards Body since the last assessment (January 2019)? If so, please elaborate.**  |  |  |
|  | **What is the exact share of European Standards adopted by your National Standards Body in %?** |  |  |
| **Questions related to digitalisation in standardisation and to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on standardisation** |
|  | **Prior or at the beginning of the pandemic, was there a contingency plan established which laid down appropriate procedures?** |  |  |
|  | **To which extent were the services offered by the national standards body available during the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **Does the national standards body offer the possibility of digital/remote participation in committees?** |  |  |
|  | **a)** | **If yes, how has the digital/remote participation of firms and in particular SMEs in developing standards changed during the pandemic** |  |  |
|  | **Is there a strategy or action plan in place regarding digitalisation within the national standards body?** |  |  |
|  | **Do you have designated staff and/or special working groups for digitalisation of processes in the national standards body?** |  |  |
|  | **What lessons have been learnt in this area due to the pandemic and are there any strategic changes planned due to this experience?** |  |  |
|  | **Thematic block 3. Accreditation** |
|  | **Have any changes been made to the accreditation legislation since the last assessment (January 2019)? If yes, please specify what changes have been made and whether they are connected to the EU acquis.**  |   |  |
|  | **Is the accreditation body a member in European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA)?** | [ ] Full member[ ] Affiliate member[ ] Application submitted[ ] Not applied |  |
|  | **Has the accreditation body applied for EA Multilateral Agreement (EA-MLA) signature status?** | [ ] Yes, for all fields of accreditation[ ] Yes, for some fields of accreditation[ ] No |  |
|  | **Has the accreditation body been positively assessed by EA or by peer organisations?** | [ ] Yes, for all fields of accreditation[ ] Yes, for some fields of accreditation[ ] No |  |
|  | **Does the accreditation body have a yearly or biannual activity plan and has the planning frequency changed since the last assessment (January 2019)?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Have any changes been made to the** **register of accredited bodies since the last assessment (January 2019)? If yes, please elaborate** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is the accreditation body adequately staffed and operational?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is the accreditation legislation being evaluated at regular intervals?**  | [ ] Yes, there is regular evaluation.[ ] There has been evaluation but it is not regular.[ ] There has never been an evaluation |  |
|  | a) | If yes, have any changes been made to the accreditation legislation as a consequence of the evaluation results? Please elaborate. |  |  |
|  | **Is there a body designated for monitoring and evaluation of accreditation and responsible for proposing measures for improvement?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, how frequent is this evaluation? | [ ] Less than 3 years[ ] 3 years[ ] 5 years[ ] more than 5 years |  |
|  | **For which fields has accreditation been provided?** |  |  |
|  | **Has a cost-benefit analysis been undertaken to assess to identify priority sectors and to assess which areas of accreditation to add or remove from the offering of the national accreditation body? If yes, please elaborate.**  |  |  |
| **Questions related to digitalisation in accreditation and to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on accreditation** |
|  | **Prior or at the beginning of the pandemic, was there a contingency plan established which laid down appropriate procedures?** |  |  |
|  | **To which extent were the services offered by the accreditation body available during the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **Have remote audit and inspection activities been introduced by the accreditation body?** |  |  |
|  | a) | If yes, is this remote procedure also available for first-time accreditation? |  |  |
|  | **Is there a strategy or action plan in place regarding the digitalisation of procedures and activities within accreditation bodies?** |  |  |
|  | **Does the accreditation body have designated staff and/or working groups for digitalisation of procedures and activities?** |  |  |
|  | **What lessons have been learnt in this area due to the pandemic and are there any strategic changes planned due to this experience?** |  |  |
|  | **Thematic block 4. Conformity assessment** |
|  | **Have any changes been made to the conformity assessment legislation since the last assessment (January 2019)? If yes, please specify what changes have been made and whether they are connected to the EU acquis.**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Have there been any changes with respect to the assessment of conformity assessment bodies by the national accreditation body since the last OECD survey?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is there an SME designated webpage/portal/gateway providing information on conformity assessment bodies?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Are there any measures in place which facilitate SMEs access to conformity assessment (e.g. certification of products)?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, please provide examples of such measures.  |  |  |
|  | **Is there legislation on conformity assessment evaluated at regular intervals?**  | [ ] Yes, there is regular evaluation.[ ] There has been evaluation but it is not regular.[ ] There has never been an evaluation |  |
|  | a) | If yes, how frequent is this evaluation? |  |  |
|  | b) | Have any adaptations been made to conformity assessment legislation since the last assessment (January 2019) as a consequence of evaluation results? If yes, please provide examples.  |  |  |
|  | **Is there a body designated for monitoring and evaluation of conformity assessment and responsible for proposing measures for improvement?**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, have any new measures related conformity assessment been implemented as a result of these proposals? Please provide example (this does not relate to legislation, but concrete (cross-sectoral) measures regarding the implementation of conformity assessments) |  |  |
|  | **How many accredited conformity assessment bodies exist in which fields (e.g. testing, certification, certification of management systems) and serving which main sectors?**  |  |  |
|  | **Are there priority sectors which cannot be served with domestic conformity assessment bodies? How do you solve this?** |  |  |
|  | **In case where conformity assessment is not available locally, are SMEs being supported to get assessed abroad, i.e. in a neighbouring economy?** |  |  |
| **Questions related to digitalisation in conformity assessment the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on conformity assessment** |
|  | **To which extent were the services offered by the conformity assessment bodies (CAB) available during the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **To which extent did the financial situation of CABs deteriorate during the pandemic? How many CABs went out of business?** |  |  |
|  | **Was financial support from the government available for CABs (either from general or specific programs)?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | Was this support being claimed and used by the CABs? |  |  |
|  | b) | If yes, please specify for what purposes this support has been used.  |  |  |
|  | **Have remote audit and inspection activities been introduced by the CABs?** |  |  |
|  | **Thematic block 5. Metrology** |
|  | **Have any changes been made to metrology since the last assessment (January 2019)? If yes, please specify what changes have been made and whether they are connected to the EU acquis.** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is there a strategy on metrology? If yes, have any revision been made to the strategy since the last assessment? Please elaborate.** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Compared to the time of the previous assessment, is the metrology body adequately staffed and operational?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is the metrology body recognised by relevant international/European organisations?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Are there joint activities with other metrology bodies from the region?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, please provide examples of joint activities.  |  |  |
|  | **Is the legislation on metrology being evaluated at regular intervals?**  | [ ] Yes, there is regular evaluation.[ ] There has been evaluation but it is not regular.[ ] There has never been an evaluation |  |
|  | a) | If yes, how frequent is this evaluation? | [ ] Less than 3 years[ ] 3 years[ ] 5 years[ ] more than 5 years |  |
|  | b) | Have any adaptations been made to metrology legislation since the last assessment as a consequence of evaluation results? If yes, please provide examples.  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Is there a body designated for monitoring and evaluation of metrology and responsible for proposing measures for improvement?**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, have any new measures been introduced as a consequence of these recommendations? Please provide examples (either sector-specific or cross-sectoral), if applicable.  |  |  |
|  | **Has a cost-benefit analysis been undertaken to assess which metrology are essential and should therefore be provided by the national metrology body? If yes, please briefly elaborate on the outcomes.**  |  |  |
| **Questions related to digitalisation of the metrology body and on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on metrology** |
|  | **Prior or at the beginning of the pandemic, was there a contingency plan established by the metrology institute which laid down appropriate procedures?** |  |  |
|  | **To which extent were the services/legal responsibilities of the metrology institute available during the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **Are remote calibration services available? If yes, please elaborate on the service.**  |  |  |
|  | **Is there a strategy or action plan in place regarding the digitalisations of the metrology institute?** |  |  |
|  | **Does the metrology institute have designated staff and/or working groups for digitalisation?** |  |  |
|  | **What lessons have been learnt in this area due to the pandemic and are there any strategic changes planned due to this experience?** |  |  |
|  | **Thematic block 6. Market surveillance** |
|  | **Is the legislation on market surveillance in line with the new EU acquis in place (the new EU regulation 2019-1020 from June 2019)?**  | [ ] Yes there is legislation in line with the current EU acquis.[ ] There is legislation but it is not yet completely in line with the current EU Acquis.[ ] There is legislation which is in line with the old EU acquis (765/2008)[ ] No, but it is being developed.[ ] No, there is no specific legislation on market surveillance |  |
|  | **Is there a strategy and/or action plan on market surveillance and has it been revised/updated since the last assessment? If updated, please provide the date of the update and elaborate on which parts.**  | [ ] Yes there is a strategy/action plan and it has been updated since the last assessment: Date of last update: Parts updated:[ ] Yes there is a strategy/action play but it has not been updated since the last assessment[ ] No, but the strategy/action plan is being drafted at the moment[ ] No there is no strategy/action .  |  |
|  | **Since the last assessment (January 2019), how has the coordination between different public authorities on market surveillance activities changed?** | [ ] Coordination has intensified[ ] The level of coordination remains unchanged[ ] The level of coordination has reduced |  |
|  | a) | If it has intensified or was reduced please elaborate in which areas. |  |  |
|  | **Has the national authority established a contact point to enhance the exchange of information on unsafe products and surveillance measures?**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | If yes, please provide some examples.  |  |  |
|  | **Are all the procedures for effective and efficient market surveillance in place? Please elaborate.** | [ ] Yes, all measures are in place[ ] Yes, certain measures are in place and others are being developed[ ] No  |  |
|  | **Are the evaluation results of market surveillance activities, and information on its effectiveness and efficiency publicly available? If yes, please provide links.**  | [ ] Yes. Link(s) to results: [ ] No |  |
|  | **Is the legislation on market surveillance being evaluated in regular intervals?**  | [ ] Yes, there is regular evaluation. [ ] There has been evaluation but it is not regular. [ ] There has never been an evaluation |  |
|  | a) | If yes, how frequent is this evaluation? | [ ] Less than 3 years[ ] every 3- 5 years[ ] more than 5 years |  |
|  | b) | Have any adaptations been made to market surveillance legislation since the last assessment as a consequence of evaluation results? If yes, please provide examples. |  |  |
|  | **Please describe any new procedures of the market surveillance authorities that have been introduced since the last assessment.** |  |  |
| **Questions related to digitalisation of market surveillance activities and on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on market surveillance** |
|  | **Prior or at the beginning of the pandemic, was there a contingency plan established by the market surveillance authorities which laid down appropriate procedures?** |  |  |
|  | **To which extent were market surveillance activities upheld during the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **Have digital activities of surveillance authorities been introduced or expanded during the pandemic?** |  |  |
|  | **Is there a digitalisation strategy or action plan in place that addresses the digitalisation of procedures and activities of the market surveillance authorities?** |  |  |
|  | **Do the surveillance authorities have designated staff and/or working groups for digitalisation?** |  |  |
|  | **What lessons have been learnt in this area due to the pandemic and are there any strategic changes planned due to this experience?** |  |  |
| *Optional - Please provide any further information on Sub-dimension 3 in your economy that you deem relevant for the assessment* |  |  |

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| Self-assessed level (1 through 5, whole and half numbers) |  |
| Brief justification |  |
| Assessor name and institution |  |

## Sub-dimension 3: SMEs Access to Standardisation

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| **Question** | **Response *[expand box as necessary]*** | **Evidence/Links** |
| **Thematic Block 1: Awareness Raising and Information** |
|  | **Is there a webpage (or other online tools) in local language where SMEs could find information on standards applicable to products and processes in various sectors?** | [ ] Yes, there is a webpage. Please share a link. [ ] No, but it is being developed.[ ] No. |  |
|  | a) | Does this webpage provide the opportunity to search for European and international standards in the local language as well? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Since the last assessment (January 2019) have there been forums on regular basis for dialogue between national standards organisations (NSO) and business associations representing SMEs allowing for provision of up-to-date information?**  | [ ] Yes, there is regular dialogue[ ] Yes, but the dialogue is sporadic and limited.[ ] No such dialogue exists. |  |
|  | **Since the last assessment have standardisation bodies and business associations introduced any new measures to increase SMEs awareness of standards? If yes, please provide examples of the new measures.**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | Do business associations provide regular information (e.g. newsletters) about standards and standardisation activities to their members? | [ ] Yes, regular information is provided.[ ] Some information is provided, but it is not regular.[ ] No such information is provided. |  |
|  | b) | Are any promotional campaigns on standards (e.g. sectoral roadshows) organised by standards organisations and/or business organisations? | [ ] Yes, regular information is provided.[ ] Some information is provided, but it is not regular.[ ] No such information is provided. |  |
|  | c) | Do any practical guides exist on the benefits of using standards and standardisation activities to their members? | [ ] Yes, regular information is provided.[ ] Some information is provided, but it is not regular.[ ] No such information is provided. |  |
|  | d) | If yes, has this material been updated since the last assessment (January 2019)? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | e) | Are any successful case studies on standardisation and its benefits collected and made available to public? | [ ] Yes, regular information is provided.[ ] Some information is provided, but it is not regular.[ ] No such information is provided. |  |
|  | **Since the last assessment have there been any training events (seminars or workshops) on the implementation of standards organised by standards organisations and/or business associations?**  | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **If any, how many awareness raising and training events have been organised by standards organisations and/or business associations between 2018-2020?** |  |  |
|  | **How many SMEs have annually benefitted from different awareness raising and training events between 2018-2020?** |  |  |
|  | **Please describe the measures to facilitate SME’s access (e.g. information, assistance, advice, awareness etc.) to certify their products - if any.**  |  |  |
| **Thematic block 2: SMEs participation in developing standards** |
|  | Do national standards organisations have specific committee or working groups that are dedicated to considering the needs and concerns of SMEs? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | Are there measures in place to enhance the participation of SMEs in development of standards? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | Is there a mechanism in place which allows SMEs to offer feedback on standards? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | Is the involvement of SMEs in standardisation regularly monitored and evaluated? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | If specific committee and working groups exist, please provide more information on them - e.g. How often do they meet? |  |  |
|  | Is there any evidence that the feedback and views of SMEs are taken into account while developing and revising standards? (e.g. Records of public consultations) |  |  |
|  | Please provide more information on the mechanisms in place that increase SMEs participation in developing standards |  |  |
| **Thematic block 3: Financial support to SMEs** |
|  | **Are there any financial measures (e.g. subsidies) in place which reduce the cost of acquiring standards for SMEs?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Are there any financial measures in place which reduce the cost of SMEs participation in standardisation?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | a) | Do standards organisations and/or business associations provide financial support to SMEs for attendance in technical meetings and seminars? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | b) | Does the government offer any tax credits related to standardisation? | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Are there any financial measures in place which reduce the cost of implementation of standards?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **Are the financial measures related to standards provided for SMEs regularly monitored and evaluated?** | [ ] Yes[ ] No |  |
|  | **How many SMEs have annually benefitted from various financial support schemes between 2018-2020?** |  |  |
|  | **How much annual support has been provided to SMEs between 2018-2020?** |  |  |
|  | **To which extent did the SME representation in standardization committees change during the pandemic?** |  |  |
| *Optional - Please provide any further information on Sub-dimension 3 in your economy that you deem relevant for the assessment* |  |  |

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| Self-assessed level (1 through 5, whole and half numbers) |  |
| Brief justification |  |
| Assessor name and institution |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Self-assessed level (1 through 5, whole and half numbers) for the overall dimension – Standards and technical regulations:**  |  |

1. Directives/Regulations regulating a specific product sector, or certain product aspects, such as Low Voltage Directive, or Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive, or Construction Products Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Technical regulations - set out specific characteristics of a product — such as its size, shape, design, functions and performance, or the way it is labelled or packaged before it is put on sale. The compliance with requirements set out in technical regulations is mandatory. In certain cases, the way a product is produced can affect these characteristics, and it may then prove more appropriate to draft technical regulations in terms of a product's process and production methods rather than its characteristics per se. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Standards - set out characteristics of a product — such as its size, shape, design, functions and performance, the compliance with which is voluntary. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Accreditation is designed to ensure and attest that conformity assessment bodies (e.g. laboratories, inspection or certification bodies) have the technical capacity to perform their duties adequately. It is used in both the regulated sector to meet the requirements of certain legislation and in the voluntary area where there is no specific legislation. Accreditation aims to increase trust in conformity attestation and thus reinforces the mutual recognition of products, processes, services, systems, persons and bodies across the EU. It is based on a peer evaluation system that ensures the proper functioning of accreditation across the EU. In the EU it is the last level of public control in the European conformity assessment system. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Conformity assessment procedures demonstrate that a product, before it is placed on the market, conforms to the essential legislative requirements that apply to it. The purpose of conformity assessment procedures is to ensure confidence on all sides as regards the conformity of products to the relevant essential requirements. As a general rule a product should be covered by conformity assessment during both the design and production phase. Conformity assessment must not be confused with market surveillance, which consists of controls after the product has been placed on the market. However both techniques are complementary and equally necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the market. Designated CABs (Conformity Assessment Bodies) - are bodies providing services for conformity assessment under the conditions set out in the legislation. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Metrology is the scientific study of measurement. Legal Metrology is the entirety of the technical and administrative procedures established in law by the public authorities in order to guarantee the quality of measurements made in the course of commercial transactions and official controls, and in relation to health care, safety, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The objective of market surveillance is to ensure that products placed on the market do not endanger health, safety or any other aspects of the protection of public interests. In practice, market surveillance includes any necessary action (e.g. bans, withdrawals, recalls) to stop the circulation of products that do not comply with all the requirements set out in the relevant EU harmonisation legislation, to bring the products into compliance and to apply sanctions. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. The Digital Single Market aims to remove virtual borders, boost digital connectivity and make it easier for consumers to access cross-border online content. Support services and training are necessary for SMEs, in particular for micro- and small enterprises that have been slow to adopt digital solutions.  [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. European standardisation is organised by and for the stakeholders concerned based on national representation (the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardardisation (CENELEC) and direct participation (the European Telecommunication Standards Institute (ETSI)), and is founded on the principles recognised by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the field of standardisation, namely coherence, transparency, openness, consensus. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)