

UNECE-SDA Bocconi Regional Workshop 21-23 September 2021

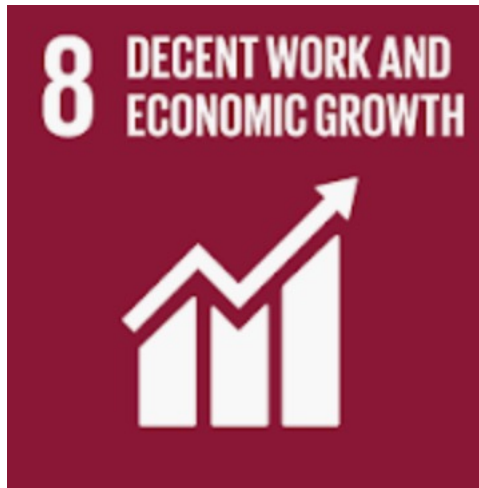
MODULE 4 MAKING TT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY WORK FOR SMALL ACTORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

SEPTEMBER 21, 16.45-17.30

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Why small actors and vulnerable groups need special attention?



- **More than half of the global labor force and more than 90 percent of micro and small enterprises (i.e. MSEs) worldwide are part of the informal economy** (Source: ILO).
- Undeclared informal work is a challenge particularly in a sector such as the garment and footwear sector where production is fragmented across different countries.



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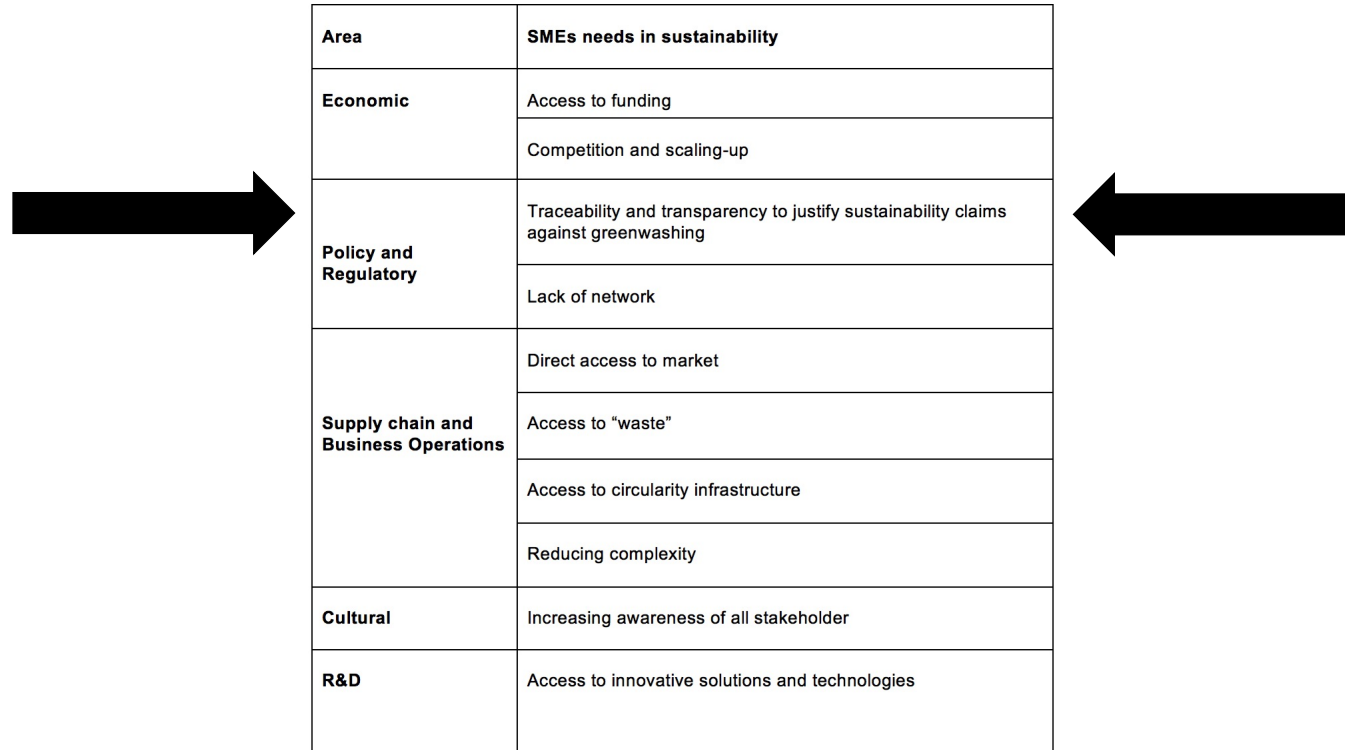
- **Women account for a majority of the labor workforce in the garment and footwear supply chain** (Source: ILO). However, many garment and footwear producing countries perform poorly on gender equality and women economic empowerment (Source: EC, 2016).
- **Risks of harm often differ for men and women.**
- **Gender issues in the garment and footwear sector also include the “glass ceiling” for woman’s career dynamics.**

Why small actors and vulnerable groups need special attention?



- **SMEs represent 99% of all businesses in the EU, they employ 100 million people in the EU and account for more than half of Europe's GDP** (Source: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes_en).
- **European textile and garment companies are predominantly SMEs. They represent 99,8% of the 160.000 companies, they employ 1,5 million people about 70% represented by women, and generating a turnover of about €162 billion** (Source: EURATEX 2020, based on EUROSTAT 2019 data).

Sustainable garment and footwear SMEs –needs analysis



Area	SMEs needs in sustainability
Economic	Access to funding
	Competition and scaling-up
Policy and Regulatory	Traceability and transparency to justify sustainability claims against greenwashing
	Lack of network
Supply chain and Business Operations	Direct access to market
	Access to “waste”
	Access to circularity infrastructure
	Reducing complexity
Cultural	Increasing awareness of all stakeholder
R&D	Access to innovative solutions and technologies

Source: Bocconi University for Small But Perfect, 2022 (forthcoming)



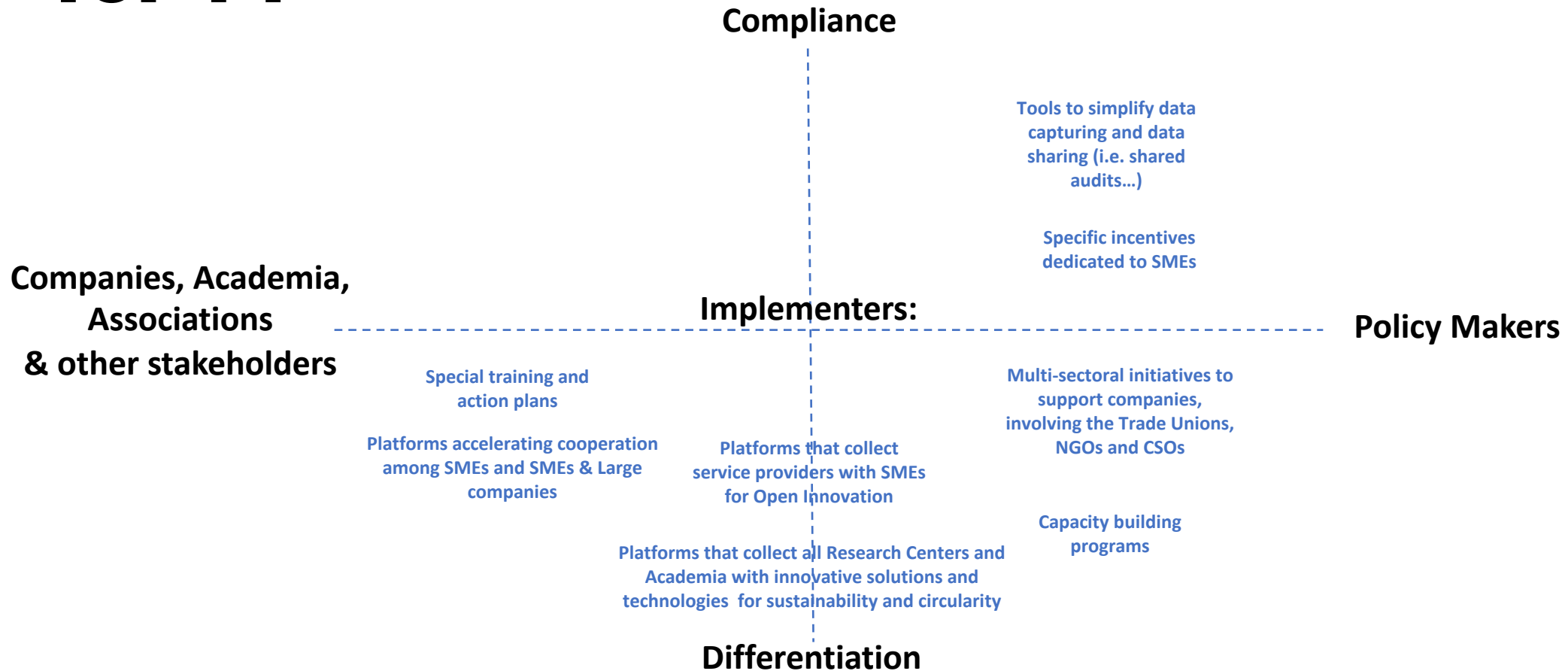
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Suggested tools supporting SMEs needs for TT



UNECE, 2021 (forthcoming) & Bocconi University for SmallButPerfect, 2022 (forthcoming)



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Glossary



“Capacity-building is defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world. An essential ingredient in capacity-building is transformation that is generated and sustained over time from within; transformation of this kind goes beyond performing tasks to changing mindsets and attitudes.”

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building>



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Glossary

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent 99% of all businesses in the EU. The definition of an SME is important for access to finance and EU support programmes targeted specifically at these enterprises.

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en



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**THANK YOU
JOIN THE SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE**

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