



# **Enhancement of the Business Environment in the Southern Mediterranean**

## **National seminar for Lebanon 8, 9 and 10 October 2014**



A project funded by the European Union



**Encourage and support  
SMEs to benefit from the  
growth of markets  
Principle 10  
Small Business Act for  
Europe**



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# 1. Euro-MED Charter for Enterprises Small Business Act for Europe



- 2000 Adoption of the European Charter for Small Enterprises at the EU level
- 2004 Adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise at the 5th ministerial conference in Caserta, Italy
- 2008 Adoption of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA)
- 2011 Ministers decide to gradually align the Charter with the SBA



## 2. Discussion



Why SMEs are so important ?



### 3. The Small Business Act for Europe



Reflects the EC's political will to recognise the **central role of SMEs** in the EU economy and puts into place a comprehensive **SME policy framework**

Aims to improve the overall approach to **entrepreneurship**, permanently anchor the **'Think Small First' principle** in policy making from regulation to public service, and to promote SMEs' growth by helping them tackle the remaining problems which hamper their development.

In brief, the SBA is:

- a **set of 10 principles** which should guide the design and implementation of policies both at EU and national level. This is essential to create a level playing field for SMEs throughout the EU and improve the administrative and legal environment so as to allow these enterprises to unleash their full potential to create jobs and growth;
- an ambitious package of concrete and far reaching new measures including five legislative proposals which **translate these principles into action** both at EU and Member State level;
- designed to ensure the **full political commitment** of both the Commission and the Member States together with regular monitoring of its implementation.

**The SBA aims at providing guidance to promote and develop SMEs in updating the Euro-MED Charter for Enterprise within the Euro-MED**



## 4. The 10 SBA principles



1. Support entrepreneurship
2. Give a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance (bankruptcy procedures)
3. “Think Small First” (reduce burdens)
4. Public administration responsive to SME needs (e-government)
5. Improve access to public procurement & use of state aid
6. Facilitate access to finance
7. Benefit from Single Market opportunities
8. Access to skills and innovation
9. Eco-innovation/environment opportunities
10. **Access to external markets**



## 5. The SBA and the SME Policy Index



- Analytical tool composed of a set of indicators covering the SBA 10 principles
- Aims at:
  - Providing a structured and comparative evaluation of SME policies and initiatives by defining a country's position on a set of key SME policy dimensions (e.g. access to finance, business development services, globalisation of SMEs, etc.)
  - Identifying strong and weak points in policy design and implementation to provide a list of priority actions for reform
  - Facilitating dialogue and programme coordination between policymakers, private sector organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders
- Indicators were jointly defined with the National Charter Coordinators;
- To facilitate the measurement, dimensions are further broken down into sub-dimensions (e.g. sources of finance, legal and regulatory framework for access to finance, financial literacy) and policy indicators (credit guarantee schemes, business angel networks, microfinance facilities, etc.).
- Each indicator (and by extension sub-dimensions and dimensions) uses a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 broadly corresponds to good practice level.



# 6. Methodology and process of the SME Policy Index

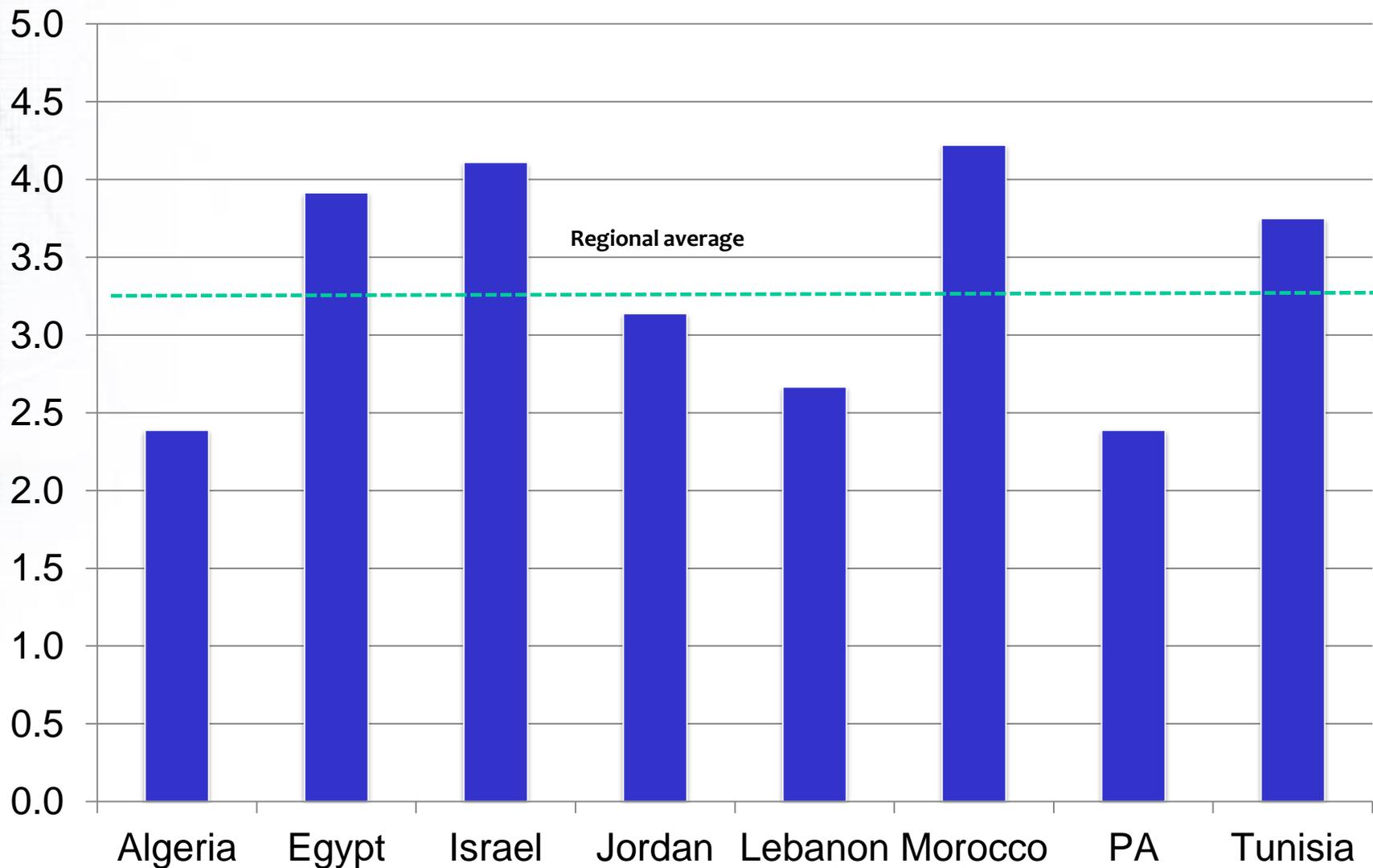


Policy dimensions	
	Covering priority dimensions related to the <b>Small Business Act for Europe</b> :
1.	Entrepreneurial learning and women's entrepreneurship
2.	Bankruptcy and second chance for SMEs
3.	Regulatory framework for SME policy making
4.	Operational environment for SMEs
5.	SME support services and public procurement
6.	Access to finance for SMEs
7.	Standards and technical standards
8.	Enterprise skills and innovation
9.	SMEs in a green economy
10.	Internationalisation of SMEs

Dimensions		Sub- dimensions				
6	Access to finance for SMEs					
6.1	Sources of external finance for SMEs					
6.2	Legal and regulatory framework					
<b>Sub - dimensions</b>		<b>Indicators</b>				
6.1	Sources of external finance for SMEs					
6.1.1	Credit guarantee schemes					
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Level of Reform</b>				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Credit guarantee schemes					
	Public start -up funding					
	Business angels network					

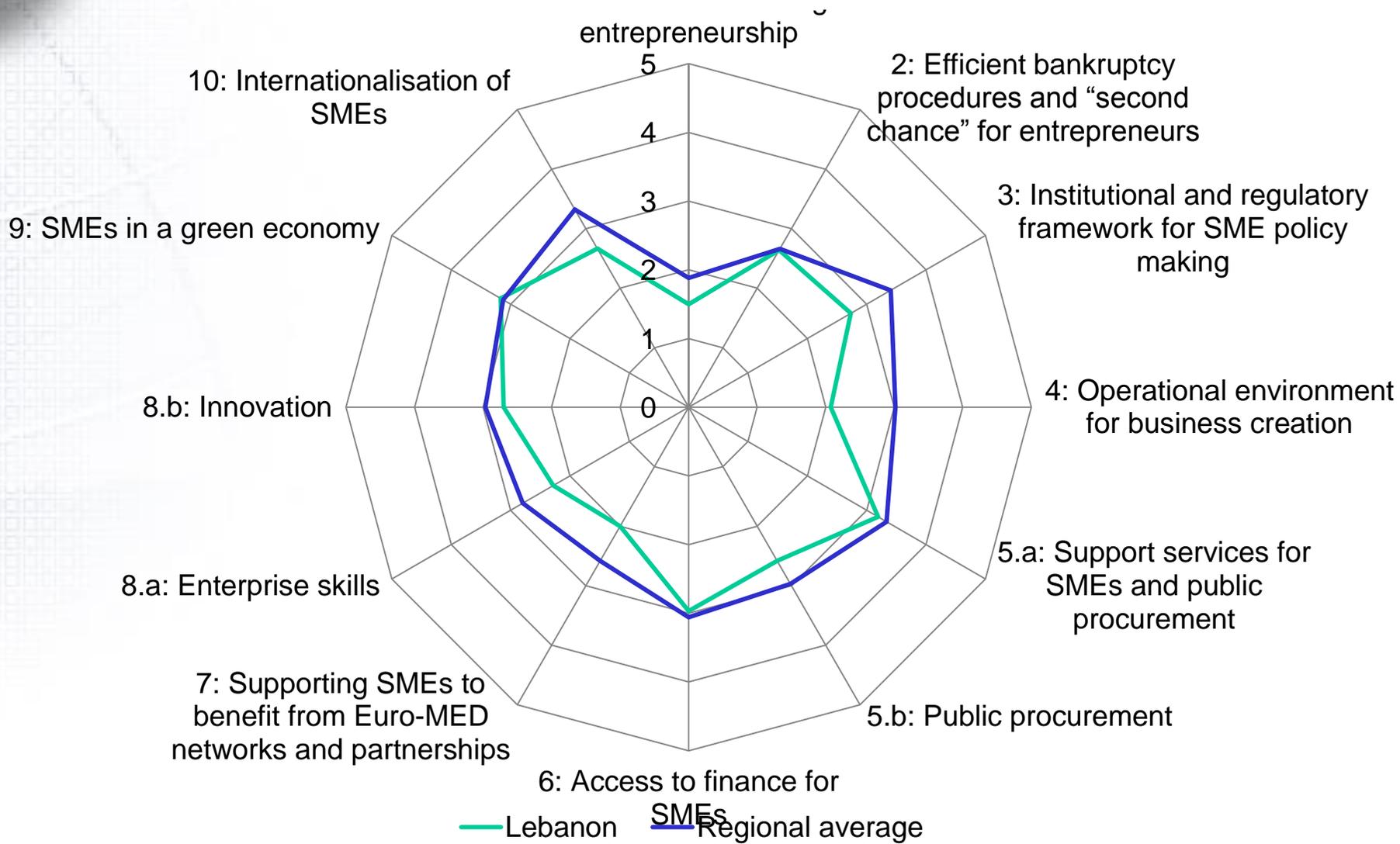


# 7. Internationalisation of SMEs





# 8. Lebanon Vs Regional Average





## 9. Useful links



- **Small Business Act for Europe**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/small-business-act/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/small-business-act/index_en.htm)

- **Euro-MED industrial cooperation**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/international/promoting-neighbourhood/mediterranean/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/international/promoting-neighbourhood/mediterranean/index_en.htm)

- **EuroMed – Good practices database**

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/database/europed/index.dfm?fuseaction=welcome.detail&language=FR>

- **Small Business Act for Europe – Good practices database**

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/database/SBA/index.cfm?fuseaction=welcome.detail>



**Thank you for your attention**

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