



International  
Labour  
Organization



**EESE**

Enabling Environment for  
Sustainable Enterprises

*Every seed deserves good soil to grow*

*The EESE programme works to improve the enabling conditions  
for enterprise creation and growth,  
creating fertile ground for a successful business.*



## Meet EESE

The **EESE** team aims to improve the **Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises**, by:

- ▶ allowing stakeholders to identify the major constraints hampering business development
- ▶ fostering dialogue between workers, employers and governments to reach shared policy recommendations
- ▶ supporting the adoption of effective reforms
- ▶ unlocking entrepreneurial potential, boosting investments and generating economic growth, creating better jobs and reducing poverty

**EESE** uses a comprehensive and powerful methodology developed to **assess, advocate** and **reform** the environment in which enterprises start up and **grow**.

Small and medium enterprises are often hit harder by an unconducive enabling environment. Improving it helps them to access new services to:

- ▶ perform better
- ▶ reduce their cost of doing business
- ▶ unlock investment opportunities
- ▶ create more decent and productive employment

# The ILO and the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises

In 2007, the International Labour Conference adopted the Conclusions Concerning the Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises. The conclusions define an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises, which combines these elements:



**Respect for human dignity**



**Legitimate quest for profit**



**Decent work**



**Environmental sustainability**

The **EESE** programme is the real-world application of the 2007 Conclusions. Through **EESE**, the ILO helps its tripartite constituents - governments, employers, and workers - assess the enabling environment, define action plans for change, and implement reforms that make it easier to start and grow businesses that create more and better jobs.

## What is an Enabling Environment

It is the *combination of conditions* that affect an enterprise's capacity to **start up, grow and create decent jobs.**

### Political

- Peace and political stability
- Good governance
- Social dialogue
- Universal human rights and International Labour Standards

### Economic

- Macroeconomic policy and sound management of the economy
- Trade and sustainable economic integration
- Enabling legal and regulatory environment
- Rule of law and property rights
- Fair competition
- Access to financial services
- Physical infrastructure
- Information and Communication Technologies

### Social

- Entrepreneurial culture
- Education, training and lifelong learning
- Social justice and social inclusion
- Adequate social protection

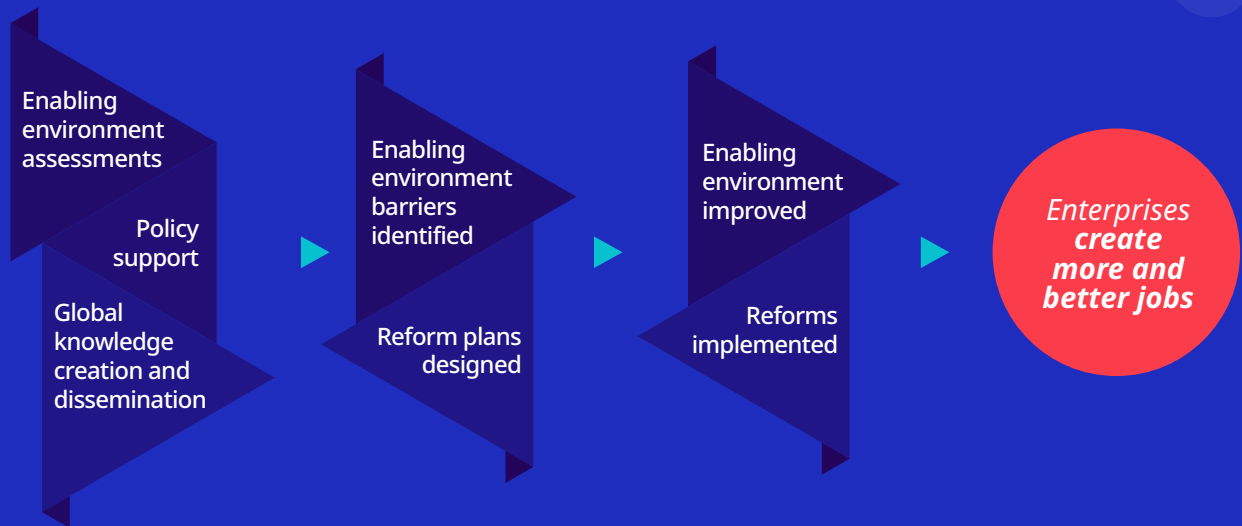
### Environmental

- Responsible stewardship of the environment

An enabling environment seeks to improve the economic prospects, particularly of small and medium enterprises, overcome decent work deficits for workers and ensure that economic activities are environmentally sustainable.

## How it works

**EESE** designs and implements activities with the ultimate goal of creating more and better jobs in small and medium enterprises. Our theory of change shows how, by supporting tripartite partners in analyzing the enabling environment, developing action plans, designing and implementing reforms, **EESE** contributes to improving the enabling environment, thus making enterprises an engine to create more and better job.



## The assessment process

The first step in any **EESE** intervention is an assessment of the current situation of the enabling environment. **EESE** works with ILO constituents and local stakeholders to assess, based on constituents' demand, the enterprises' economic, political, social, and environmental context, and prioritize reforms. Based on the results of the assessment, the partners agree on action plans for reform.



## Added value of the EESE approach



### Comprehensive

Our methodology uses information from a range of sources, including secondary data and macro-level indicators, enterprise surveys, interviews with key informants, and participatory workshops



### Inclusive

Our processes involve all the key stakeholders, including representatives from the private sector (employers' organizations), employees (trade unions) and regulators (government)



### Participatory

Our approach relies on collaboration among local stakeholders. Validation and consultation workshops are built into the process to create ownership by local actors

# Knowledge **generation** and **dissemination**

We go beyond country level enabling environment assessments. The **ESEE** team also works to document and promote effective policy initiatives to improve the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises, through:

- ▶ Case studies on what works and what doesn't for business environment reform
- ▶ Contribution to training courses on policy support for enterprise development
- ▶ Thematical partnerships with other international agencies

**ESEE** also develops new knowledge and technical skills on the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises, on issues such as:

- ▶ Labour law and small and medium enterprises
- ▶ Conducive policies for post-COVID recovery

Preferential tax regimes, just transition and business environment, use of big data for policy design...

## Our **experience** and **achievements**

As of December 2020



**50**  
Countries



**21,000 +**  
Enterprises surveyed



**2,100 +**  
Workers interviewed



**100**  
Thematical action plans  
developed



**54**  
Business environment  
reforms implemented

