

The Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) Sector

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

The overall aim of the course is to provide students with understanding of the role the SME sector plays in any national economy – both in terms of static and dynamic analysis, after first developing some basic analytical tools necessary to assess the SME sector's role. Students will also be made aware of the existing data sources regarding SMEs.

Module Size and credits

ECTS points	10
Total student study hours	250
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Lazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2022/2023

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

Introductory Microeconomics and Introductory Macroeconomics.

Excluded Combinations

None

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Final exam, 50%

Coursework, 50%, composed of a project

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. coursework and final exam). Reassessment: coursework component and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

None

Course stages for which this module is mandatory n/a

Course stages for which this module is an elective

BA in Business Economics, Year 3

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Appraise strong and weak sides of the multiple-criteria definitions of SMEs.
2. Analyse the overall place of the SME sector in the national economy – in terms of the numbers of firms (and establishments), their contribution to national employment and value added.
3. Analyse demographic concepts, including the cohort analysis – in terms of theory and actual numbers' evaluation.
4. Assess the basic stumbling blocks in SME development and how to avoid them.
5. Appraise the effectiveness of governmental policies toward SMEs – including a critical assessment of the so-called aid to the SME sector (general equilibrium approach vs. partial equilibrium approach).

Indicative Content

1. SME definitions (UE, US, other)
2. Decomposition of the SME sector into micro-, small, and medium enterprises; what follows from this division
3. Short numerical characteristics of the SME sector in selected countries
4. Internal and external SME growth factors (theoretically and in reality of the past ten odd years)
5. Basic analysis of the SME sector dynamics: firms' demographics / cohort analysis of the number of firms, of employment and of the value added
6. What role may SMEs (and their particular sub-groups) play in economic development of a particular country?
7. SMEs and systemic transition (in Eastern Europe and elsewhere)
8. What barriers are the most significant obstacles to economic growth of the SMEs in your country and how can they be removed?
9. Potential and actual role of the financial sector in removing those stumbling blocks

10. Should SMEs be helped by the government?

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of lectures, seminars and self-guided study. Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam. Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	30 hours	(12%)
Self-guided	205 hours	(82%)
Seminar	15 hours	(6%)
Workshop	0 hours	(0%)
Total	250 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows):

Final exam, 50% (test and open questions) will assess all learning outcomes

Coursework, 50%, composed of a project of around 2750-3000 words, will assess learning outcomes 2, 4-5.

Re-sit

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, are entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit.

Date of last amendment

30.01.2017

3. MODULE RESOURCES

Storey, D. J., 2008. *Understanding the Small Business Sector*, Thomson Learning, London.

Winiecki, J., Benacek, V., and Laki, M., 2004. *The Private Sector After Communism. New entrepreneurial firms in transition economies*, Routledge, London & New York.

Additional readings:

[attention: first four below are available free of charge on the web]

Van Stel, A., 2003. *COMPENDIA 2000.2: a harmonized data set of business ownership rates in 23 OECD countries*. EIM Business & Policy Research.

Schmiemann, M., 2002. *Enterprises in Europe - does size matter?* Statistics in Focus: Industry, Trade and Services, „Theme”: 4:39.

2004. *The Small Business Economy. A Report to the President*, USGPO, Washington DC.

2004. *White Paper on Small and Medium Enterprises in Japan. The Limitless Potential of the Diversity of Small and Medium Enterprises*, Japan Small Business Research Institute (JSBRI), Tokyo.

Davidsson, P., 2016. *Researching Entrepreneurship, 2nd edition. International Studies in Entrepreneurship Series*, Springer.

Galen Spencer Hull, *Small Businesses Trickling Up in Central and Eastern Europe*, Routledge, 2014.

The remaining part of Jan Winiński et al (2004) – see above.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION

Module leader

Name Dr. Agata Kocia

E-mail akocia@wne.uw.edu.pl

Length and month of examination:

120 minutes in June

Expected teaching timetable slots

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module. No timetable information available.

Subject Quality and Approval information

Board of Study Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title

Date of approval by FCPC 13 Feb 2017