Business Environment Observatory



April 2014

Co-financed by Greece and European Union









Past Initiatives of SEV



1. 30 Action Areas for the Creation of a Business-friendly Environment (2010)

- Charted 231 obstacles to entrepreneurship, classified into 30 action areas relevant to business practice
- Served as a de facto standard in the public dialogue for the lifting of barriers
- Demonstrated the need for a systematic and continuous approach

2. Assessment of 6 Selected Areas of Entrepreneurship (2011)

- Developed a tool for targeted interventions by SEV for the reduction of burdens that enterprises face
- Developed a customized approach and methodology to overcome burdens to entrepreneurship
- Acted as a Pilot Program for the Observatory

The Business Environment Observatory is the institutional continuation of the past initiatives of SEV



A. The Approach





Vision and Mission



Our Vision

The establishment of institutions and principles that support the competiveness of enterprises and promote the development of Greece

Our Mission

The Mission of the Observatory is to promote radical policies and reforms of the business environment, through the collaboration of the constructive forces of enterprises and of the public administration



Operational Axes of the Observatory



1. Identifying and recording regulatory costs and administrative burdens that enterprises face

2. Analyzing and assessing the regulatory environment and formulating comprehensive improvement proposals



4. Raising awareness and mobilization amongst businesses and public administration to improve the business environment

3. Providing information and support to enterprises on regulatory framework and administrative issues



Salient Characteristics



Objectivity

Documented and objective approach, whilst promoting responsible entrepreneurship

Authority

■ Use of internationally recognized methodologies, technocratic approach

Active Interventionism

Active presence in the public dialogue: identifying and highlighting the problems in the market, contributing to the shaping of the reform agenda

Leveraging Market Knowledge

Mobilizing business executives, sectoral and regional associations, technocrats and experts, via test groups, focus groups, contribution thorough the Internet Portal, etc.

Comprehensive Intervention

Formulating comprehensive policy recommendations and action plans to uphold the necessary changes

Collaboration

New approach to public-private cooperation, mobilization of both parties for the achievement of common targets and the diffusion of benefits



Interacting with the Key Players



Business Community

- Contributes to the Public
 Dialogue with policy
- Consults with officials from the Public Administration for the identification and removal of barriers

suggestions

State
Public
Administration

Business Environment Observatory

Operates under the auspices of SEV

- Creates a strong network with businesses and bodies that represent them to identify barriers and design improvement policies
- Aims to express the views of the entire business community

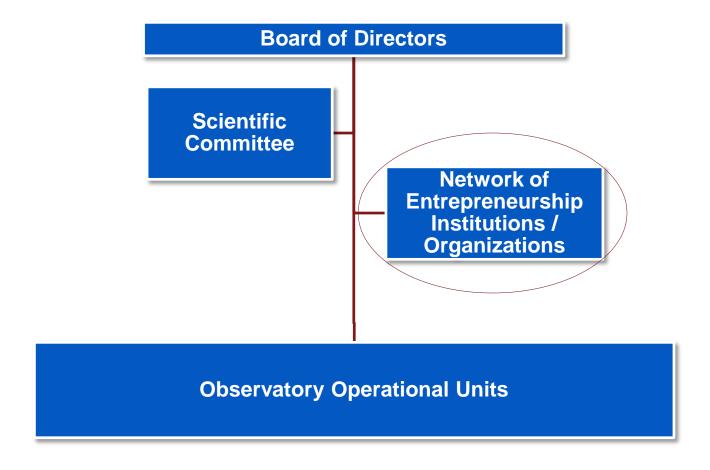
- Operates under the supervision of a Scientific Committee
- Cooperates closely with academics, experts and technocrats

Scientific Community



Structure of the Observatory







B. The Action Plan





Classification into Thematic Areas



- 1. Developmental Incentives
- 2. Establishment Licensing of Businesses / Activities
- 3. Research and Innovation
- 4. Financial Services / Access to Finance
- 5. Standards and Certifications
- 6. Public Sector Contracts
- 7. Audits and Supervision
- 8. Customs Procedures / Imports Exports
- 9. Information Obligations
- 10. Taxation, Levies & Fees
- 11. Working Environment / Employment Relations, Social Security Contributions
- 12. Corporate Law
- 13. Speed of Serving Justice (procedures, not quality!)



Main Projects of the Observatory (1/3)



Annual Report for the State of the Business Environment

- ✓ Collects the regulatory and administrative burdens and assesses the current state of the business environment
- ✓ Formulates guidelines about the essential reforms for the improvement of the business environment
- ✓ Determines the progress of reform activities to overcome burdens / barriers

Qualitative and Quantitative Surveys for burdens

- ✓ Register and document the regulatory and administrative burdens— through questionnaires completed by the enterprises
- ✓ Assess the progress of adoption of policy suggestions by the public administration.
- ✓ Assess the public policies for the reduction of administrative burdens



Main Projects of the Observatory (2/3)



Thematic Studies on Overcoming Burdens

- ✓ Study critical paths / processes of high regulatory cost and significant impact on the business environment – with active participation of the businesses and in cooperation with the public administration (Focus groups / Interviews)
- ✓ Study and estimate the regulatory cost of burdens
- ✓ Present recommendations to overcome burdens

Opinion / Barometer Surveys

- ✓ Monitor the satisfaction and trust of businesses regarding the quality of the public services, via the expression of opinion by the business community
- ✓ Publish Satisfaction and Trust Indices for the institutions of the Public Administration



Basic Projects of the Observatory (3/3)



Registry of Paths / Processes involving Businesses / Public Administration

- ✓ Record the paths / processes between businesses and the public administration in detail and register burdens -- with active participation of the businesses and interactive recording of barriers on a sector or process level
- ✓ Perform continuous **development**, **extension and update** of registry processes

Workshops for Enterprises and Public Administration

- ✓ Mechanism for the collaboration of the national constructive forces: Business executives, public administration, academics and subject matter experts
- ✓ Analysis of surveys and studies' results, trends, changes and developments, as well as cooperation for the design and evaluation of improvement proposals



Main Outcomes



- 1. Thematic Study & Public Consultation on the Reform of Licensing Procedures
- 2. 1st Barometer on the Quality of Public Services to Enterprises
- 3. 1st Country- Wide Survey on Administrative Burdens
- 4. Annual Report 2014 on the State of the Business Environment
- 5. Model Impact Assessment & Consultation Methodologies
- 6. Impact Assessment & Consultation on the new Environmental Law
- 7. Impact Assessment & Consultation on the Road Freight Liberalization Law
- 8. Charting of more than 240 administrative processes





Work in Progress



- 1. Thematic Study on the Speed of Serving Justice
- 2. Thematic Study on Land Planning
- 3. 2nd Country- Wide Survey on Administrative Burdens
- 4. 2nd Barometer on the Quality of Public Services to Enterprises









The Portal will be the main hub of operation and communication of the Observatory's functions, offering services in the following areas:

I PARTICIPATE

- ...by registering burdens in entrepreneurship
- > ...by participating in burden recording / Opinion surveys
- ...by contributing to consultations & fora

I AM GETTING INFORMED & UP TO DATE

- ...about the progress in burden reduction
- > ...about business / public administration processes
- ...about changes in administrative procedures and the institutional framework
- ... about the activities of the Observatory



The Internet Portal as a hub of operation (2/2)









