

EUROPEAN SMEs IN ENGINEERING SECTOR: PRESENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

Synoptical Description for asking the funding of such a study/survey by the EU DG ENTR to the ECCE/ECEC

We need to describe the present situation for the specific area of SMEs, those that activate in the engineering sector (consulting and construction contracting companies). Within the framework of the SBA we'll investigate the special problems of the above small companies, we'll incorporate them in the general categories of the EU proposing actions and measures and we'll conclude strategies and propositions for their perspectives in the market.

The SMEs in the engineering consulting sector dominate the market, the 96% of those companies have less than 20 employees. Firstly, we'll investigate the market a) the type and the structure of those companies providing services in the consulting and in the construction engineering sector, b) the characteristics of the market inside EU and Single Market and outside. The special weight of the SMEs in the consulting and in the construction engineering sector affecting the EU economy will be emerged by this study and c) the problems that those above SMEs face in the execution of their activities.

A SWOT analysis defining the strong and the weak points and with the relevant evaluation for those SMEs activating in the market will be executed for extracting the necessary conclusions for the strategy of those SMEs and the specific propositions and measures to be proposed for them. Especially, we describe and elaborate indicatively the following:

- The business environment inside and outside EU
- The legal environment defined by national and EU legislation
- The competition rules and the relevant environment especially with the conditions referring to large companies in the engineering sector
- Public Procurement procedures and benchmarking facilitating the involvement of the SMEs in the engineering sector
- Mobility and activation of SMEs in the engineering sector inside EU
- Information of SMEs and dissemination of the relevant EU policies, legislative and financial measures for SMEs
- Promoting entrepreneurship to the young and women engineers

- The incorporation of innovation in the activities of the SMEs activating in the engineering sector
- The incorporation of the sustainability of environment in all the developmental plans and projects by the SMEs in the engineering sector. Establishing the concept and the implementation of “Green Development” worldwide
- The cross-border activities of the SMEs in the engineering sector inside Europe, Single Market and outside
- The activity of the European SMEs of the engineering sector in the new emerging and in huge markets for construction activity (China, India, Middle East, Arab Countries etc)
- Facilities, credits, grants, loans, joint venture capitals from the EIB and the other banks facilitating and enhancing the activities of the SMEs in the engineering sector

The source data will be collected and elaborated by the analytical questionnaires on all the above fields. We'll also ensure access in many sectoral national similar studies/surveys and of course to those have already been executed by the international engineering or other organizations (we've already defined those studies/surveys for effective reviewing and updating).

ECCE and ECEC together represent different national member engineering organizations from 30 countries (also some of them outside EU) and they have already established an effective network for international cooperation in professional, scientific, research & technology, environment & sustainability and business development framework subjects in the engineering sector. The source data will be provided by all the members of our international network and the study/survey will be conducted by a common ECCE/ECEC Study Team consisting of experts in the field.

The whole structure of the project with human resources and time devoted, with deliverables, time scheduling and analytical budget will be submitted soon after the first acceptance of our proposed present synoptical description and the first/preliminary approval by the DG ENTR to go forward and to submit a detailed project configuration.

ECCE and ECEC ask from EU DG ENTR to participate actively in all the relative EU initiatives, activities etc for the SMEs and we can undertake the role as a “European Multinational Focal Point” disseminating all the information providing to us by the EU to our Members Engineering Organizations.