

The approach to sustainability of European SMEs: some key figures

<p>99% of all businesses in the EU are small and medium-sized enterprized, and they produce</p> <p>58% of the EU's GDP.</p>	<p>2 out of 3 jobs in the EU private sector are offered by SMEs</p>
<p>Source: European Commission Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) Annual Report on European SMEs 2018/2019 Research & Development and Innovation by SMEs November 2019 on Eurostat's Structural Business Statistics (SBS) data; for Switzerland, EAER: Federal Department of Economics Affairs, Education and Research, SME Porta, Figures on SMEs: Companies and jobs.</p>	

<p>European SMEs' approach to sustainability is still informal and not structured, with margins for growth</p>	<p>13% of EU27 SMEs indicate that they have already adopted a sustainability strategy.</p>	<p>21% seem to be in the process of implementing one, although they haven't yet done so.</p>
	<p>40% report they may potentially adopt a sustainability strategy in the future.</p>	<p>18% declare that they have not considered implementing one and will not do so in the future</p>
<p>Source: European Commission (2020), SMEs, start-ups, scale-ups and entrepreneurship Flash Eurobarometer 486</p>		

European SMEs do more than they are aware of doing and/or are capable of communicating, for example in terms of welfare, environmental, and community engagement.

Percentage of SMEs reporting sustainable initiatives		Community engagement
<p>Employee welfare including occupational health and safety and well-being</p> <p>66% in Italy 65% in Germany 76% in Austria 66% in Spain 68% in Hungary</p> <p>French, Czech, and Swiss SMEs significantly engage employees on welfare initiatives too.</p>	<p>Environmental</p> <p>67% in Italy 69% in Spain 66% in Switzerland</p> <p>Environmental initiatives in SMEs are widespread in Germany, France, Hungary, Czech Republic and Austria as well.</p>	<p>European SMEs confirm being active in supporting social, educational, cultural, as well as charitable and religious-related initiatives in their local communities.</p>

