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STATE SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT: A CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Entrepreneurship can be considered as one of the major sources of economic growth. Often regarded as crucial for the national economy, supporting entrepreneurial activity remains at the focus of policymakers across the globe. This paper aims at providing an overview of state support policies for entrepreneurship, presenting a benchmark for comparison between experiences of 30 countries with different income level. Two research questions were posed regarding the difference of state support measures of entrepreneurship depending on income levels and policy implications for other countries. World Bank's classification of countries by income level – high-income, middle-income and low-income was used in the selection of countries studied. Comparative analysis was chosen as an empirical scientific research method, complemented by content analysis, synthesis, systematization and generalization. Research results show the features of each selected group, making it possible to draw up recommendations for developing and least developed countries. The experience described in this paper will help to systemize the current practice across countries, learn general patterns for further studies, provides grounds for better policy-making and disseminates best-practice information for entrepreneurship development.

Key words: entrepreneurship, state support, cross-country analysis, comparative study.

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Кәсіпкерлікті дамытуды мемлекеттік қолдау: мемлекетаралық салыстырмалы талдау

Кәсіпкерлікті экономикалық өсудің негізгі көздерінің бірі ретінде қарастыруға болады. Ұлттық экономика үшін аса маңызды болып саналатын кәсіпкерлікті қолдау шаралары бүкіл әлем бойынша саясаткерлердің назарында. Бұл зерттеудің мақсаты әлем елдеріндегі кәсіпкерлікті мемлекеттік қолдау саясатын қарастыру және кірісі әр түрлі 30 елдің тәжірибесін салыстыру болып табылады. Кәсіпкерлікті мемлекеттік қолдау шараларының кірістер деңгейіне және басқа елдер үшін пайдалы болатын қорытындыларға байланысты ерекшеліктері туралы екі зерттеу сұрағы көтерілді. Зерттелетін елдерді таңдауда Дүниежүзілік банктің кірістер деңгейі бойынша елдердің жіктелуі қолданылды – кірісі жоғары, орта және төмен елдер. Ғылыми зерттеудің эмпирикалық әдісі ретінде салыстырмалы талдау әдісі таңдалды, оған қоса контент-анализ, синтез, жүйелеу және жалпылау әдістері қолданылды. Зерттеу нәтижелері әр таңдалған топтың ерекшеліктерін көрсетеді, бұл дамушы және нашар дамыған елдер үшін ұсыныстар жасауға мүмкіндік береді. Осы мақалада сипатталған шетелдік тәжірибе әртүрлі елдердегі қолданыстағы тәжірибелерді жүйелеуге, болашақтағы зерттеулер үшін қолдануға болатын жалпы заңдылықтарды зерттеуге, тиімді мемлекеттік саясатты әзірлеуге негіз құруға және кәсіпкерлікті дамытудың озық тәжірибелері туралы ақпарат таратуға көмектеседі.

Түйін сөздер: кәсіпкерлік, мемлекеттік қолдау, мемлекетаралық талдау, салыстырмалы зерттеу.

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Государственная поддержка развития предпринимательства: межстрановой сравнительный анализ

Предпринимательство можно рассматривать как один из основных источников экономического роста. Поддержка предпринимательской деятельности, которую часто считают решающей для национальной экономики, остается в центре внимания политиков во всем мире. Целью данной статьи является обзор политики государственной поддержки предпринимательства и

сравнение опыта 30 стран с разным уровнем доходов. Были поставлены два исследовательских вопроса об особенностях мер государственной поддержки предпринимательства в зависимости от уровня доходов и выводах для других стран. При отборе изучаемых стран использовалась классификация стран Всемирного банка по уровню доходов – страны с высоким, средним и низким доходами. Сравнительный анализ был выбран в качестве эмпирического метода научного исследования, дополнительно использовались методы контент-анализ, синтез, систематизация и обобщение. Результаты исследования показывают особенности каждой отобранной группы, что позволяет составить рекомендации для развивающихся и наименее развитых стран. Зарубежный опыт, описанный в данной статье, поможет систематизировать существующие практики в разных странах, изучить общие закономерности для дальнейших исследований, обеспечит основу для более эффективной разработки государственной политики и распространит информацию о передовой практике для развития предпринимательства.

Ключевые слова: предпринимательство, государственная поддержка, межстрановой анализ, сравнительное исследование.

Introduction

The vital contribution of entrepreneurship to job creation and social cohesion is widely recognized by all governments. Entrepreneurship plays a key role in relation to economic development, and can be considered as one of the major sources of economic growth. Often regarded as crucial for national economy, supporting entrepreneurial activity remains at the focus of policymakers across the globe.

Several existing studies point out that good governance (government effectiveness, regulatory quality, political stability, and institutional governance, etc.) has a direct impact on the development of entrepreneurship (Omri, 2020). The state functions in a systematic and organizing manner, which forms institutional conditions for the activities of business entities. In this regard, being aware of different policies and mechanisms adopted around the world could help to learn lessons for future planning and development.

Despite being some of the mostly investigated research areas in management, entrepreneurship research can still be critiqued for almost exclusively focusing on North American and European research sites (Bruton, Ahlstrom, & Obloj, 2008). Bruton et al. (2008) argues that the exploration of domains outside of these two developed economic regions, in particular, entrepreneurship in emerging economies, remains extremely limited. Moreover, Spencer and Gomez stresses the limited understanding of what governments can do to promote entrepreneurship in their domestic economies (Spencer and Gomez, 2004).

Therefore, this paper aims at providing an overview of state support policies for entrepreneurship, presenting a benchmark for comparison between experiences of 30 countries with different income level.

Two research questions were posed in this study:

RQ1. How state support measures of entrepreneurship differ depending on income level of countries?

RQ2. What lessons can be learnt for developing and least developed countries in terms of providing effective state support policy for entrepreneurship?

This paper is organized as follows. First, we provide a theoretical background for research question development. Then, describe a conceptual framework for research design. In the next section, the main findings from the analysis of countries' experience are presented, followed by a conclusion. The Annex 1 contains the detailed information on legislative framework, state programs, strategic documents, and features of state support policy in selected countries.

Literature review

Entrepreneurship is a cohesive process of creativity, risk taking and planning (Kuratko & Hodgetts, 2007). Entrepreneur is an innovator, wealth and job generator, change agent, problem solver, pace setter and excellence seeker, and adds value to local resources. Entrepreneur is a combination of all these but definitely not only 'any one' of these. Since entrepreneurship contributes significantly to various aspects of human life, different persons often conceptualize it differently as per their field of interest.

In our case, state support should be analyzed taking into account that entrepreneurship is a specific kind of system. For developing effective regulatory initiatives, there is a need for implementing appropriate state economic policy, forming required rules and regulation for conducting business institutions. Therefore, the state, as an institutional organizer, functions in a systematic and organizing

manner, which forms institutional conditions for entrepreneurship.

Nowadays, review of international experience shows that there is hardly any developed country exists, where the government does not interfere and regulate the key social and economic factors including entrepreneurial development.

One of the earliest fundamental theories was proposed by Arthur Pigou (1932), who argues that government regulation is a must to protect the public from market failure.

The theories of J.M. Keynes, who indicated the essential need to create a centralized control and public support on affairs that are relating to the private sector have been widely applied in practice in many countries with market economies (Roube, 2000).

Studies have shown that the organizational environment plays a pivotal role for entrepreneurs, which catalyzes or hinders venture emergence and survival (Gnyawali & Fogel, 1994; Hwang & Powell, 2005). Keeping in mind that the various aspects of an institutional environment, laws and regulations are considered important drivers of the process for regulatory actors can expand or prevent new products and services through the institutional mechanisms, they develop (Edelman & Suchman, 1997; Russo, 2001).

According to Zaitsev (2009), the following conditions are regarded essential for the creation of an effective business climate for entrepreneurs: stability of government regulations and policies, the public attitude toward entrepreneurship in general, the comprehensible process of enterprise registration, favorable taxation regulation, developed system of state support, effective system of intellectual property protection, understanding and acceptance of business ethics.

Starting from 2009, the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute (GEDI) provides entrepreneurship and business statistics on a country's entrepreneurial ecosystem through Global Entrepreneurship Index (Acs et al., 2019). This index considers the entrepreneurship ecosystem as a mix of attitudes, resources, and infrastructure, and measures the health of entrepreneurship ecosystems in 137 countries. However, it has been criticized by some scholars for leading to a misinterpretation of the dynamics of national systems of entrepreneurship, which could hamper the formulation of sound initiatives in other economies, especially in developing countries (Inacio Junior et al., 2021). It should be noted, that authors of the GEI project announced its closure in 2019.

A measurement of entrepreneurial activity across national contexts is a relatively recent and underrepresented area of investigation (Marcotte, 2013). There are several studies dedicated to the research of entrepreneurship as a source of empowerment for the economically disadvantaged in developed countries (Morris et al., 2020), policy support for the internationalization of SMEs (Pietrasieński, 2011; Hauptman et al., 2011; Dekel-Dachs et al., 2021), methodological approaches to study of entrepreneurial and self-employment activity across countries (Dvouletý, 2018), changes in support policy for SMEs in developing countries (Poole, 2018), etc. However, publications about the comparative analysis of state support and regulation policy across several countries are lacking.

This research attempts to study and generalize patterns of state support policy for entrepreneurship development at the macro level, making it useful for policymakers and practitioners involved in this area.

Methodology

Figure 1 provides a graphical depiction of research design used in this study. The research process consisted of several steps. First, a preliminary literature review was conducted to learn more about the theoretical background of state support measures for entrepreneurship, highlighting key factors and main regulatory aspects. Exploratory literature review showed the lack of studies on distinguishing state support measures for entrepreneurship in developing and least developed countries. After identifying the research gap, we referred to the World Bank's classification of countries by income level – high-income, middle-income and low-income (World Bank, 2020). It should be noted that we united upper and middle-income level groups. Consequently, we chose 10 for each group to further analysis, making it 30 in total.

The following countries were selected according to income-level groups: USA, UK, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland and Singapore – for high-income countries; India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Russia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Jamaica – for middle-income countries; Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Malawi, Mali, Uganda, Niger and Mozambique – for low-income countries.

Comparative analysis was chosen as an empirical scientific research method that allows generalizing theoretical considerations and developing a classification (Hytti & O'Gorman, 2004). For con-

tent analysis, the strategic documents, state programs, legislation, local initiatives, was taken into consideration. Scientific publications in domestic and foreign journals, analytical reports of interna-

tional organizations and local authorities, articles by experts in the media, government programs, regulatory framework, etc. were sources of information.



Figure 1 – Research design

Note – compiled by authors

Thorough and detailed consideration of each country's and group's features of support policy for entrepreneurship made it possible to draw up classification provided in results section and answering posed research questions.

Results and Discussion

Entrepreneurship in economically developed countries is recognized as a part of owner's property who mainly determines the social and economic growth of the country. Private sector guarantees the economic sustainability of the countries by covering almost all areas of the internal market. Being the most flexible form of doing business in life, en-

trepreneurship creates new ideas for improving the competitiveness of products at national and international markets. On the other hand, entrepreneurship is depending on the internal market economy. Therefore, there is a need to arrange the divergences and objective capabilities of entrepreneurs by making appropriate policies and regulations.

The result of this research shows that entrepreneurship have positive impact on income level of the country's overall economic growth such as the GDP growth rate, increase of job opportunities and innovation for R&D of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship development therefore can contribute to economic development of the countries depending on their income level.

Table 1 – The general description of market conditions for entrepreneurship development depending on income-level

№	Group of countries	Features of entrepreneurship development
1	High-income countries	- Constant economic growth - High employment opportunities - High technological infrastructure - Developed entrepreneurial ecosystem - Sufficient funding
2	Middle-income countries	- Lower increase of GDP growth rate - Moderate employment opportunities for young people - Outdated technological infrastructure
3	Low-income countries	- Very low increase percentage of GDP growth rate - Low employment opportunities for young people - Underdeveloped institutional framework for the development of entrepreneurship - Insufficient funding opportunities

Note – compiled by authors

After conducting comparative analysis of state measures for supporting and developing entrepreneurship among the 30 countries, we can draw up the following answer to the RQ1:

1. High-income group

In this group, each state has different programs and initiatives in terms of entrepreneurship support. In high-income countries as the USA or UK, the state bodies have effective initiatives and allocate huge amount of money for the support of entrepreneurship. These countries also support and finance SMEs and startups in the beginning of their business. The government provide business grants and funding programs for entrepreneurs, adopt a long-term strategies and programs. Entrepreneurship education programs are mostly common for the higher education system. The ecosystem for entrepreneurship is highly developed.

2. Middle-income group

In middle-income countries, adopted policies aimed at enhancing the performance of some sectors in order to reduce unemployment and privatization of small, medium and micro industries development. In these countries, SMEs are regarded as the agents of change in socioeconomic strategies and policy documents. Short-term programs are designed to enhance entrepreneurship at the national level. Formal and informal education for the development of entrepreneurship exists. There are certain government institutions, which support and coordinate SMEs and entrepreneurship activities.

3. Low-income group

In low-income countries, entrepreneurship is at initial stage of initiatives for economic development and promotion of entrepreneurship. There is likelihood to be lack of coordination among the state bodies for the implementation of state polities to develop entrepreneurship. They have weak incentives and initiative for SMEs and startups. These countries allocate less amount of state budget for innovation of entrepreneurship.

Full details of comparison are presented in Annex 1 as a breakdown of the legislative framework, state programs, strategic documents, supporting

activities and initiatives, and features for each country.

The following lessons can be learnt for developing and least developed countries in terms of providing effective state support policy for entrepreneurship (RQ2):

1. Provide effective initiatives for financing of SMEs and offer loans and incentives for the startups to launch their business.

2. Build infrastructure for entrepreneurs to expand their business at the national and international level.

3. Create more job opportunities for the population by supporting entrepreneurs to hire people in their firms.

4. Provide separate fund for Research & Development and introduce a number of additional initiatives to streamline administrative compliance and to reduce administrative burdens for growth.

5. Establish more access to market for successful function of SMEs that is facilitated by market access.

Conclusion

State support policy for entrepreneurship should ensure the establishment of friendly legal and regulatory frameworks, which aim to support the process of entrepreneurship development in the economy. In practice, the implementation of such government policies differs from country to country depending on various factors. In this paper, we considered three groups of countries selected by income level. Annex 1 contains several examples of successful adoption of supporting state programs and creative initiatives at the national level. The experience described in this paper will certainly help to systemize the current practice across countries and to learn general patterns for further studies.

This research provides grounds not only to support better policy-making but also to gather and disseminate best-practice information that can help stakeholders in developing countries find better solutions for entrepreneurship development.

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Annex 1
Comparative analysis of state measures for supporting and developing entrepreneurship across countries

№	Country	Legislative framework, state programs, strategic documents	Supporting activities and initiatives	Features
High-income countries				
1	United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.R.539- Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2019 - Promoting Entrepreneurship: Innovations in State Policy, 2014 - Entrepreneurship in States, 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) -Presidential Ambassadors for Global Entrepreneurship (PAGE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted crowd funding which is a new phenomenon with the potential to revolutionize the way in which entrepreneurs access capital - Direct investment programs in start-up companies is not an appropriate role for state government and the risky nature of venture capital is an unacceptable use of public funds -Direct supports are considerably less, while obstacles against newly established businesses and SMEs are weaker
2	United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act, 2015 Chapter 26 - The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Entrepreneurship, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide huge amount for financing SMEs and start ups - There are more than 226 business grants and funding programs available for entrepreneurs - Separate fund for Research & Development R&D
3	Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporation Act No.50, 2001 -Entrepreneurship Strategy, 2018–2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Entrepreneurs' Program, 2014 - CSIRO Kick-Start, 2017 - Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF), 2016 - Research and Development Tax Incentive, 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In 2010-11, all businesses spent around \$17.9 billion on R&D, with small businesses spending approximately \$2.3 billion (of which \$0.8 billion was accounted for by micro businesses. -Overall, only 24% of non-Indigenous MSMEs claimed that they received some form of support from government bodies, while about 40% of Indigenous MSMEs claimed they received government support
4	Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commercial Code, Chapter 4-Freight Business, 2017 -Entrepreneurship education, 2007 - Business counselling, 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ESF-supported initiative “Perspektive Wiedereinstieg” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The ERP Start-Up Loan – Start-up Money is available for start-ups and young firms that have been active for less than 5 years. It provides maximum financing of up to €100,000 with a term of 5 or of 10 years - Funding is especially awarded to small companies
5	New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986. No.124 - New Zealand Business Act 2016. No.16 -The New Zealand Small Business Strategy, July 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incubators and Accelerator Programs - Work and income (WINZ) grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small businesses are generally understood to be those with fewer than 20 employees -The strategy is intended for businesses that are privately or family owned where the owner is significantly involved in the running of the business
6	Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada Business Corporation Act, RSC 1985, c.C-44 - Five-Year Business Strategy 2017-2022 -Women Entrepreneurship Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Innovation Super Cluster Initiative -Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Government of Canada introduced a number of additional initiatives to streamline administrative compliance and to reduce administrative burdens for growth: -BizPal -The Canada Revenue Agency’s My Business Account

№	Country	Legislative framework, state programs, strategic documents	Supporting activities and initiatives	Features
7	Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commercial Enterprises and Cooperative Law.1911. Art.552-926 - CTI start-up, 1996 - CTI Entrepreneurship, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The EPFL Innovation Park -Social Entrepreneurship Initiative and Foundation (seif) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Swiss Government provides guarantees for federal loans to cantons that wish to offer incentives for new businesses set up in a particular Swiss region - Support programs for bank loans, Loan guarantees are available for up to 500,000 CHF and the Swiss Federal Government underwrites 65% of the debt exposure
8	Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Banking and Finance Business Act, 2004 - The Swedish Innovation Strategy, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) that works with the unemployed and VINNOVA, which supports innovative companies - Tillväxtverket works with immigrants, on top of more general measures and support for entrepreneurship and SMEs - Investing, as a rule, more than 3 per cent of the country's growth domestic product (GDP) in R&D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced the regulatory burden on new start-ups and SMEs - Some specific groups or sectors receive special treatment, migrants entrepreneurs can access special support - Entrepreneurship is more developed in the higher education system and all major universities have business incubators
9	Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurs Act, 6 March 2018 Text No 646 -Entrepreneurship education in schools, 2006 -Entrepreneurship support and promotion in higher education, 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Junior Enterprise (JADE) JADE is the Polish confederation of consulting firms that is managed entirely by students. JADE Poland provides students with opportunities to apply the theoretical knowledge gained through coursework to applied projects for real businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The primary vehicle for supporting entrepreneurship and business start-ups in higher education are the network of Academic Incubators of Entrepreneurship (AIP) - There is also entrepreneurship training for youth outside of formal education - Youth Business Poland (YBP), part of Youth Business International, is currently the largest entrepreneurship mentoring Program in Poland for youth
10	Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Names Registration Act 2014, No.29 - Enterprise Singapore Board Act 2018, No.10 - Startup SG,2017 - Angel Investors Tax Deduction (AITD) scheme - Financial Sector Technology and Innovation (FSTI) scheme, 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scale-up SG, it is designed to help companies scale-up quickly into global enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Startup SG is the “umbrella” covering everything about start-up incorporation advantages in Singapore - The AITD is for suitable and approved angel investors who commit a minimum of \$100,000 in a qualifying startup - Amount of S\$225 million is paid for creation of a vibrant ecosystem for innovation over a five-year period
Middle-income countries				
1	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Apprentices Act, 1961 - Entrepreneurship Development Program, 1983 Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), 2010 - National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - launched the ASPIRE scheme in March 2015, a Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Startup India Standup India action plan which was unveiled in 2016, Indian entrepreneurs are right now being presented with excellent opportunities and platform to aid their growth -As of March 30th, 2018, there are 8625 ‘officially defined’ startups in India, covering every possible niche such as health, manufacturing, IT, robotics, services, automobiles, food, grocery and more

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2	Malaysia	- Registration of Business Act 1956, No.47 -Strategic Plan on Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (2013-2015)	-the New Economic Model – NEM (2010)	-Malaysian government has taken tremendous efforts in promoting entrepreneurship across the country -There are a number of supporting mechanisms provided and various policies implemented by the government for entrepreneurs -Ministry of Education has long emphasized the need to focus on entrepreneurship education through its own educational policies
3	Nigeria	-Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), 1986 - Top 7 Business Grants & Funding For Entrepreneurs And Business Owners In Nigeria (2019)	-The Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN)	- Nigerian government, at various levels, has adopted policies aimed at enhancing the performance of some sectors in order to reduce unemployment - Promotion of entrepreneurship programs and overall self-employment through targeted youth empowerment schemes are increasingly considered as viable options
4	Russia	- Russian Federal Law ‘On state support of small enterprises in the Russian Federation’, No. 88-FZ, 14 June 1995 -The Strategy for Development of Small and Medium Entrepreneurship in Russia till 2030	-Dmitri Medvedev’s 2009 manifesto Go Russia (Russian Tech Entrepreneurship Ecosystem) -Skolkovo Techno park	-Special attention should be paid to the practical ways of coordinating state policy for promotion and development of SME with the formation of a single system for strategic planning in the Russian Federation -There is a need to upgrade the entire ideology of SME promoting policy in the Russian Federation taking into account the actual level of development of small business in the national economy
5	Turkey	- New Turkish Commercial Code 2011, No.6102 and Law No.6103 on validity and application of the Turkish Commercial Code -Turkish Entrepreneurship Strategy & Action Plan, 2015-2018 -KOSGEB Strategy Plan (2011-2015)	-TUBITAK Entrepreneurship Programs, July 2013	-There are Programs in Turkey oriented to Enhance Entrepreneurship -National Formal Education and Non-Formal Entrepreneurship Education - KOSGEB as the governmental institution supports SMEs and entrepreneurs
6	Bangladesh	- Entrepreneur’s Law 101, 2016 -SME Policy 2005	-Industrial Policy 2005 and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2004	- The Government of Bangladesh in its policies has awarded priority to privatization especially to small, medium and micro industries development - The country features a number of innovative grassroots schemes for income-generating activities
7	Kazakhstan	-Entrepreneurial Code, October 29, 2015 No. 375-V ZRK -“DAMU” Entrepreneurship Development Fund	- National Chamber of Entrepreneurs “Atameken” - Roadmap for business – 2020, 2025 - Concept of entrepreneurship development – 2025	- Financing through conditional placement of funds - Subsidizing the remuneration rate - Industry support for entrepreneurs operating in priority sectors of the economy - Reducing the currency risks of entrepreneurs - Loan guarantee - Non-financial measures to support entrepreneurship, training and consulting

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8	Uzbekistan	- “Law on guarantees of freedom of the entrepreneurial activity”, 2 May 2012 №328 - National Development Strategy, 2017	-Concepts of Administrative Reform and Innovative Development, and the Reform Roadmap for 2019–2021	- The strategy outlines five priority areas of reforms, including those in governance, public administration, and economic and social development - The role of SMEs in the economy has significantly expanded
9	Pakistan	- Companies Act, 2017, No.456 - Partnership Act, 1932, No.69 -Developing SME Policy in Pakistan, (2007)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), 2001	-SMEs are being mentioned in socioeconomic strategies and policy documents, measures are not sufficiently specified and prioritized
10	Jamaica	- The Registration of Business Names Act, 1934 (updated 2006) -Micro, Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Entrepreneurship Policy, 2017	-National Policy Framework for the Jamaican Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Sector (2008/2009)	-There is a Structured Mentorship Program for transforming MSMEs into entrepreneurial entities
Low-income countries				
1	Afghanistan	- Law on the Cooperative Association of Small and Medium Enterprise (Act No. 181 of 1949) - Small and Medium Enterprise Support Law (Act No. 147 of 1963) -Small & Medium Enterprise Development Strategy, 2015–2020	-Private Sector Development Policy Framework, April 2008	- There is no settled definition of what an SME is in Afghanistan - The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the different multi-laterals (the IFC and the World Bank) all having different definitions
2	Tajikistan	- Order of the government of October 1, 2002 No. 384 -National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2016–2030	-The state program of support of entrepreneurship for 2002-2005 in the Republic of Tajikistan	- The Government of Tajikistan believes it is important that the banking sector is put on a better footing as there would be no SME funding in Tajikistan without viable banks or a strong regulator
3	Ethiopia	- Ethiopian Commercial Code, 1960.Art 5-10 - Micro and Small Enterprises Development Strategy, November 1997	-The Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP), February 2013	- The government has formulated a National MSE Development and Promotion Strategy, which enlightens a systematic approach to alleviate the problems and promote the growth of MSEs
4	Somalia	- A new Somaliland Companies Law (law No. 80/2018) -The Strategic Framework for Somalia: 2016-2019	-Women Entrepreneurs in Somalia	- There are challenges facing women entrepreneurs and high youth unemployment rate - The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is \$600
5	Sudan	- Foreign Exchange Business Act, 2012 No.23 -National Strategy of 2007-2031, role of the private sector in economic development	-Sudan’s Structural Program (SAP), 1990	- Removed all administrative, economic and legal obstacles facing private businessmen (and businesswomen) and participants in the economy, including craftsmen, professionals, manufacturers and foreign investors

Nº	Country	Legislative framework, state programs, strategic documents	Supporting activities and initiatives	Features
6	Malawi	- Malawi Business Registration Act, 2020 - Malawi Business Licensing Act, 2012 -(MSME) Policy Strategy, 2012 entitled “Enabling Enterprise Growth in Malawi: 2012-2017”	- Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II)	- A total of 92% of the Malawian population is involved in the small and medium-sized enterprise sector in the form of self-employment, family or individual businesses - (MSEs) contributed income to about 25% of Malawian households, employed about 38% of the country’s labor force, and contributed about 15.6% to GDP
7	Mali	-Country Development Cooperation Strategy Mali Forward 2015-2020	-Draft Mali country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)	-There are challenging issues for entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship development - The country is at the initial stage taking initiatives for economic development
8	Uganda	- The Partnership Act, 2010, Cap.114 - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Policy, 2015	- National youth entrepreneurship Programs, 1990	- Policy makers remain hampered by a lack of information and rigorous evidence on the types and effectiveness of different entrepreneurship promotion Programs
9	Niger	- “Economic and Social Development Plan» for 2017-2021	-Strategy of Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship, 2008	- The document does not specifically address private sector development mechanisms - There exist opportunities and constraints to Promoting Entrepreneurship in Niger
10	Mozambique	- Investment Law Article No: 4/93, 2006 -Strategy for the Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Mozambique, August 2007	-The SME development strategy, 2008	-The document underlines the important role of SMEs as drivers of employment, competitiveness, diversification and innovation, as well as their role in mobilizing social resources
Note – compiled by authors				