



Final Report

Economic and Technical Cooperation

"Subregional Workshop to validate the results of the Public Policy Index for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC): Pacific Alliance, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay"

Bogotá, Colombia

16 and 17 July 2018

SP/TSVIPP-MIPYMES ALC/IF- N° 1-18

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I. RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

1. The "*Subregional Workshop to validate the results of the Public Policy Index for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC): Pacific Alliance, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay*", organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), jointly with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia, was held on 16 and 17 July 2018 in Bogotá, Colombia.
2. The objective of this Workshop was to discuss and validate the proposed scores of each participating country for the dimensions of the IPPALC, as well as the preliminary conclusions obtained at the subregional level. In addition, this event allowed to expand the information required for deepening the analysis of the index for its publication.
3. Representatives of SELA, CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) led the development of the workshop, including moderation and speeches, according to the agenda adopted for the event.
4. Participants included representatives of the following Member States of SELA: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Pacific Alliance, CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
5. Taking the floor at the opening session were Mr. Eduardo Piña, Specialist of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); Mrs. Sandra Acero, Director of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia; Mrs. Rebeca Vidal, Chief Executive of CAF-development Bank of Latin America; and Mr. Antonio Fanelli, Senior Advisor to the Global Relations Secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
6. The event began with an introductory session to explain and review the qualification methodology of the index. This allowed participants to understand the scoring process and, thus, provide a basis for discussion at subsequent sessions.
7. Then, the speakers made presentations related to each dimension of index, during which all participants had the opportunity to express their views and comments on the basis of the contents of the presentations.
8. At the closing session, the following participants took the floor: Mr. Eduardo Piña, Specialist of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); Mrs. Mireya Bermeo, Advisor to the Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia; Mrs. Rebeca Vidal, Chief Executive of CAF-development Bank of Latin America; and Mr. Antonio Fanelli, Senior Advisor to the Global Relations Secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
9. Photographs of the event can be viewed at <http://www.sela.org/es/eventos/2018/07/taller-ippalc/fotos/>.

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II. CONCLUSIONS

1. Since the launch of the pilot project on the Public Policy Index for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC) in May 2017 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, the Member States of the Pacific Alliance, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay, with the support of SELA, OECD and CAF, undertook to tackle the different stages in its implementation process.
2. Thus, from July to September 2017, the process of gathering information on the institutional self-assessment was carried out with the support of the designated National Coordinators. Then, from October to December 2017, the independent assessment was conducted with the support of the Foundation for Strategic Analysis and Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (FAEDPYME) to complement the information collected from the public sector. In addition, from April to June 2018, national workshops were held in each of the participating countries, where the information received could be compared and more evidence on the decision-making process aimed at MSMEs could be gathered.
3. As a follow-up to these efforts, this Subregional Workshop was held to present the preliminary results achieved by the countries in each sub-dimension of the index. Thus, a presentation was made of the analysis and technical support that justified the scores obtained, in order to generate synergy among participants and gather additional information that could allow for specifying qualifications.
4. In general, there was consensus about the presentation of the preliminary scores and results at the subregional level. However, in those cases where participants did not agree with particular scores, it was recognized that this situation could be associated with the quality of the information provided by the countries in their questionnaires. In this regard, preliminary scores could be adjusted, if the appropriate evidence is provided to justify a change. Those cases would be examined at individual meetings on 18 July.
5. The representatives of the participating countries focused on ensuring that assigned scores largely reflect the state of development of public policies in their countries instead of worrying about obtaining a high score. This resulted in a productive discussion at the subregional level.
6. Participants also validated the methodology of the index and reviewed each of the assigned scores. In this process, they agreed to make minor adjustments to Dimensions 3, 4 and 5.
7. Finally, participants agreed, as a group, to restructure Sub-dimension 7.5, in order to improve the relevance of questions associated with the actions by the trading blocs and align, to a greater extent, the responses of the member countries of the integration mechanism.
8. The closing session focused on discussing pending actions for the next phase of the project (drafting and presentation of the final version) during the period of August 2018 to March 2019.
9. The OECD agreed to update the presentations of the workshop and the sheets with the preliminary scores, incorporating changes in weights agreed upon during the meeting. This information was already sent to the National Coordinators of the project and participants of the event during the week following the workshop.

10. In addition, the sheets with the scores for each participating country will be sent with the results of Sub-dimension 7.5, as a follow-up to the new format approved. This information will be subject to review by the National Coordinators during the month of August.
11. The OECD undertook to draw up a detailed timetable for the drafting process and send it to the National Coordinators of the project and participants of the workshop at the end of August. During discussions, it was explained that the final version will contain 7 thematic chapters, one for each dimension of the index, and 7 national chapters, one for each participating country. SELA will actively support the process of review of the technical analyses achieved. In addition, drafts of thematic chapters and the chapter by country will be sent to National Coordinators for their comments during the drafting process. It is necessary to have a final version in December 2018, in order to start the translation at the beginning of 2019 and launch the final version in Spanish and English during the first four-month period of 2019.
12. SELA confirmed that it will host the meeting to launch the publication of the project, scheduled for the first four-month period of 2019, presumably in Lima, Peru. All participating countries will be invited to this meeting.
13. Participants also considered the possibility of making national presentations of the final version, in order to engage representatives of all government areas involved in the project in a more comprehensive technical discussion. The OECD and CAF agreed to revise the budget available for these meetings.
14. After the subregional workshop, on 18 July, the OECD and SELA held individual meetings with each of the participating national authorities. These meetings provided the opportunity to discuss in greater detail the considerations associated with the specific scores for each country identified during the subregional workshop, as well as the task of developing a follow-up plan for each country concerning the missing and/or incorrect responses to the questionnaire.