

SME-related policy measures adopted, implemented or announced in 2021

Italy

Title of the measure (national language)	Title of the measure (English translation)	Implementing body	Adopted / implemented / announced as part of the 'National Recovery and Resilience Plan' (Yes / No)	Status (Adopted or implemented or announced)	Date of adoption / implementation or announcement (DD/MM/YYYY)	General description (objectives / key features / budget - if applicable, and weblink to online source)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY						
Transizione Digitale ed Ecologica delle PMI con vocazione internazionale	Digital and ecological transition for internationalised SMEs	SIMEST	Yes	Implemented	Decision of the Incentives Committee of 30/09/2021	This funding scheme seeks to sustain investments for the digital and ecological transition of SMEs and increase their competitiveness in foreign markets. Each project can obtain a maximum funding of €300,000 (max 25% of the company turnover of the last two years) with a mix of a loan at a subsidised rate without guarantees and a non-repayable grant (max 25% or 40 % for SMEs based in South Italy). The measure falls under the 'de minimis' and 'Temporary

						Framework' schemes. The total available budget is €1.2 billion. Administrative Circular n.01/PNRR/394/2021
Credito d'imposta per aziende green	Tax credit for green businesses	Italian Government	No	Implemented	01/01/2021	A tax credit of 10% for green companies investing in capital goods, including the purchase of photovoltaic systems, is available up to a maximum of €2 million. Investments should be aimed at raw material saving, reduction of pollution and carbon emissions and the use of alternative materials. Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020
Credito d'imposta per progetti 'green' e trasformazione digitale 4.0	Tax credit for "green" projects and digital transformation 4.0	Italian Government	No	Implemented	30/12/2020	Tax credit of 15% up to a maximum of €2 million on annual expenditures of national enterprises for the implementation of green projects and digital transformation. Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020
'Bonus Alberghi'	'Hotel bonus'	Italian Government	Yes	Implemented	07/11/2021	This bonus is a tax credit of 80% plus grants of up to €100,000 to encourage building renovation, energy requalification, elimination of architectural barriers and digitalisation of hotels, farmhouses and other accommodation and tourism facilities. The total available budget is €500 million. Law Decree n. 152/2021 (Recovery Plan Decree)

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY							
Fondo per la parità salariale	Gender Pay Gap Fund	Italian Government	Yes	Implemented	26/10/2021	<p>This fund was established to promote the recognition of the social and economic value of equal pay and equal opportunities in the workplace. Gender equality efforts by private medium-sized companies will be certified to allow for social security payment exemptions for the employer up to €50,000/year. The fund is endowed with €52 million for any year starting from 2023 and €2 million for 2022.</p> <p>Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020, comma 276 and Law of 26/10/2021</p>	
Inclusione sociale e pari opportunità negli appalti pubblici	Social inclusion and equal opportunities in public procurement bids	Italian Government	Yes	Adopted	31/05/2021	<p>New provisions to ensure social inclusion and equal opportunities in public procurement bids have been implemented under the 'National Plan of Recovery and Resilience'. The provision requires that, in each offer, there must a be commitment to a share of at least 30% of staff under the contract to be either young or female.</p> <p>'Simplifications Decree bis'. Law n. 108/2021 art. 47</p>	
DIGITALIZATION							
Sviluppo commercio elettronico delle PMI in Paesi esteri (e-commerce)	E-commerce for SMEs in foreign markets	SIMEST	Yes	Implemented	28/10/2021	<p>The funding scheme aims to sustain SME's investments through the development of new e-commerce platforms or improvement of access to existing marketplaces to commercialise goods produced</p>	

						<p>in Italy or with an Italian trademark. Each project can obtain maximum funding of €300,000 (max 15% of the company turnover of the last two years) for a proprietary platform or €200,000 for access to a third-party marketplace with a mix of a loan to a subsidised rate without guarantees and a non-repayable grant (max 25% or 40% for SMEs based in South Italy). The total available budget is €1.2 billion.</p> <p>Decision of the Incentives Committee of 30/09/2021 Administrative Circular n. 2/PNRR/394/2021 Open calls since 28/10/2021 Policy Measure sheet</p>
Digital Tourism Hub	Digital Tourism Hub	Ministry of Tourism	Yes	Announced	13/07/2021	<p>This development of a national digital hub will help connect the whole tourism national ecosystem. The goal of the measure is to create a dedicated web platform that allows operators in the tourism sector (mainly SMEs) to enhance, integrate and promote their offering. The investment will fund digital infrastructure integrating digital services and artificial intelligence models for data analysis. The total available budget is €114 million.</p> <p>Recovery Plan - National Plan for Recovery and Resilience and Recovery Plan Decree of 27/10/2021</p>

INNOVATION						
Credito d'imposta ricerca e sviluppo, innovazione tecnologica, design e ideazione estetica	Tax credits for R&D, Technological Innovation, Creation and Design	Italian Government	No	Implemented	30/12/2020	<p>Fiscal incentives to encourage private investments for product and process innovation and boost productivity and competitiveness of national enterprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax credit of 20% up to a maximum of €4 million on annual R&D expenditures. - Tax credit of 10% up to a maximum of €2 million on annual expenditures for technological innovation. - Tax credit of 10% up to a maximum of €2 million on annual expenditures for creation and design activities in specific sectors (textile, fashion, shoes, glasses, jewellery, furniture and ceramics). <p>Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020</p>
Credito d'imposta per investimenti in beni strumentali	Tax credit for new capital goods, tangible and intangible assets 4.0	Italian Government	No	Implemented	30/12/2020	<p>Fiscal incentives for the technological and digital transformation of production processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax credit up to 50% on Industry 4.0 investments for tangible assets up to €2.5 million, 30% for investments up to €10 million Euro and 10% up to €20 million. - Tax credit up to 20% on Industry 4.0 investments for intangible assets up to €1 million. <p>Budget Law n. 178 of 30/12/2020</p>

Piano strategico sulla proprietà industriale 2021-2023	Strategic Plan for Industrial Property 2021-2023	Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE)	Yes (co-financing)	Adopted	23/06/2021	<p>The Strategic Plan will boost industrial property exploitation in the country, especially among SMEs, through public financial support for IP valorisation and access to specialised services. A total budget of €30 million has been assigned to put in place a mix of measures to promote and protect the IP of Italian companies.</p> <p>Ministerial Decree 23/06/2021 Strategic Guidelines on Industrial Property</p>
Fondo per le PMI creative	Fund for creative SMEs	The Italian Government established the Fund	No	Implemented	27/11/2021	<p>The establishment of a fund with a budget of €40 million will help sustain creative SMEs and start-ups. Resources will be used to encourage entrepreneurship in the creative industry, promote cooperation with other industrial sectors and the research system as well as stimulate innovation. Financial support will be provided through non-repayable grants, subsidised loans and equity investments.</p> <p>Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020</p>
Fondo Boost Innovation	Boost Innovation Fund	'Cassa Depositi e Prestiti' (CDP Equity)	No	Implemented	01/11/2020	<p>A public venture capital Fund is co-investing with corporates in promising high-tech start-ups to boost corporate venture building. The total available budget is €50 million.</p> <p>https://www.cdpventurecapital.it/cdp-venture-capital/en/fondo_boost.page</p>

	Tax Credit For R&D Investment	Ministry of Economic Development	No	Announced	2021	<p>A tax credit of 20% is granted up to a maximum of 4 million Euro annual R&D investment expenditure to encourage private investments in Research and Development for product and process innovation to ensure the competitiveness and productivity of enterprises.</p> <p>https://italiadomani.gov.it/en/Interventi/investimenti/transizione-4-0.html</p>
	Tax credit for technological innovation activities	Ministry of Economic Development	No	Announced	2021	<p>A tax credit of 10% is granted up to a maximum of 2 million Euro annual expenditure, applying to all expenditures on technological innovation activities</p> <p>https://italiadomani.gov.it/en/Interventi/investimenti/transizione-4-0.html</p>
SKILLS						
Credito d'imposta per formazione 4.0	Tax credit for training 4.0	Italian Government	No	Implemented	30/12/2020	<p>50% tax credit on labor costs of personnel following training courses in Industry 4.0 topics with a maximum incentive per firm of €300,000/year for micro and small enterprises and up to 40% for medium sized enterprises (with a maximum amount of 250,000 per year). For large firms instead it corresponds to 30% (with a maximum amount of €250,000 per year). This tax credit is extended also to the cost of teachers.</p> <p>Budget Law 2021 n° 178 of 30/12/2020</p>

'Innovare per Crescere' - Programma di formazione sull'innovazione e la proprietà intellettuale per PMI	'Innovate for Growth' - Training courses on innovation and IP for SMEs	ICE-Italian Trade Agency	No	Implemented	10/03/2021	<p>Training courses to increase the awareness of Italian exporting SMEs on innovation, IPR valorisation and new technologies such as the adoption of blockchain to ensure the supply chain traceability. The awareness-building initiatives aim to stimulate the protection of intellectual property and support the fight against counterfeiting for Made in Italy products.</p> <p>http://www.exporthtraining.ice.it/it/attivita-e-servizi/lista-corsi/414-innovare-per-crescere-sicilia.html</p>
Piano nazionale Scuola Digitale	National Digital School Plan	Ministry of Research and Education	No	Adopted	30/04/2021	<p>This plan has been adopted to enhance the digital competencies of students to better prepare them for the evolving needs of the labour market. New laboratories and STEM spaces will be put in place to implement innovative education and learning methods. The plan has received a dedicated budget of €66 million.</p> <p>Decreto del Ministro dell'istruzione 30 aprile 2021, n. 147</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN						
Decreto Recovery - Semplificazioni	Recovery Decree - Simplifications	Italian Government	No	Adopted	01/06/2021	<p>This measure is a simplification and streamlining of administrative procedures in public procurement processes. This includes authorisations for renewable energies production, environmental impact</p>

						evaluations and subcontracting assignment. Law Decree of 31/05/2021 n. 77
Taglio oneri bollette elettriche per le PMI	Reduced electricity bills for SMEs	Italian Government	No	Adopted	01/04/2021	These support measures reduce electricity bills with a cut on burdens of 20-30% for small businesses in the period April-June 2021 (estimated beneficiaries about 3.7 million businesses). The total available budget is €600 million. https://www.confindustriafirenze.it/decreto-sostegni-previsti-sconti-alle-pmi-sugli-oneri-delle-bollette-elettriche-per-i-mesi-da-aprile-a-giugno-2021/
REGULATORY OBSTACLES						
Nuovo regolamento per lo Sportello unico doganale e dei controlli - (SUDOCO)	New regulation for the customs portal (SUDOCO)	Italian Government	Yes	Adopted	10/11/2021	A new regulation for the Customs Portal aims to speed up the completion of customs procedures and controls and ensure transparency and interoperability among different administrations. The new online platform builds on the 'once only', 'single window' and 'one-stop shop' principles. Council of Minister Decision https://www.ipsoa.it/documenti/fisco/dogane/quotidiano/2021/11/11/sudoco-approvato-regolamento-sportello-unico-doganale-controlli
ACCESS TO FINANCE						
Rafforzamento patrimoniale delle PMI	Capital consolidation in SMEs	Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)	No	Implemented	25/08/2021	A 50% tax credit for capital increases in SMEs up to €800,000 decided until 30/06/2021.

						Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of 10 August 2020 , published in the Official Gazette of 24/08/2020
Esonero contributi autonomi e professionisti	Social security contributions exemption for self-employed and professionals	Italian Government	No	Adopted	01/01/2021	Exemption from payment of social security contributions related to the year 2020 for self-employed and professionals. Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020 Administrative Circular N° 124 of 06/08/2021
Bonus tessile, moda e accessori	Tax credit for the textile, fashion and accessories industrial sectors	Italian Government	No	Implemented	28/10/2021	A 30% tax credit for companies operating in the textile, fashion and accessories industrial sectors whose operation was particularly hampered during 2020. Provision of the Revenue Agency of 28/10/2021 on the basis of the measure announced in the Relaunch Decree n° 34/2020
LATE PAYMENTS						
Fondo di liquidità per il pagamento dei debiti commerciali degli enti territoriali	Liquidity Fund for the payment of commercial debts from local public administrations	Italian Government Ministry of Economic and Finance (MEF) and 'Cassa Depositi e Prestiti' (CdP)	No	Adopted	31/05/2021	Establishment of a fund to ensure liquidity advances, of €1 billion sum, to local public administrations for the payment of their commercial debts to companies, including SMEs. Decree 'Sostegni-bis' DL 73/2021 art. 21
Iniziative per migliorare i tempi di pagamento delle pubbliche amministrazioni	Initiatives to improve Public Administration payments conditions	Italian Government	Yes	Announced	13/07/2021	Specific provisions are envisaged in the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) to improve payment periods through accounting procedures modernisation, staff empowerment and faster processes. It is foreseen that by

						<p>2023 the weighted average of payments periods of Public Administrations should be equal to or below 30 days.</p> <p>Recovery Plan - National Plan for Recovery and Resilience "Italia domani"</p>
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ACCESS TO MARKETS						
Partecipazione delle PMI a fiere e mostre internazionali e missioni di sistema	Support for the participation of SMEs to national and international fairs, exhibitions and business missions	SIMEST	Yes	Implemented	30/09/2021	<p>Support measures for SMEs to finance investments at favourable conditions that allow them to participate in a single international event – on-site or digitally, exhibition or business mission – if 30% of expenses are devoted to digitalisation or if the event has a digital or ecological focus. The resources available for each SME is up to €150,000.</p> <p>Decision of the Incentives Committee of 30/09/2021</p> <p>Administrative Circular n. 03/PNRR/394/2021 Open calls since 28/10/2021 Policy Measure sheet</p>
Marchi collettivi Made in Italy 2021	Collective Trademarks Made in Italy 2021	Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE) and Unioncamere	No	Implemented	03/11/2021	<p>This measure will boost the Made in Italy trademarks registered by protection consortia and producers' associations gathering SMEs abroad. The incentive provides financial support to promote and certificate collective trademarks</p>

						<p>at the European and international level and to participate in collective missions abroad at fairs and exhibitions. The measures cover up to 70% of eligible costs and maximum funding of €150,000 for each beneficiary. The total available budget is €2.5 million.</p> <p>https://www.marchicollectivi2021.it/ Ministerial Decree of 26/10/2021 www.marchicollectivi2021.it</p>
'Progetto Blockchain per l'internazionalizzazione'	'Blockchain for Internationalisation' project	ICE-ITA Agency	No	Implemented	22/10/2021	<p>The measure involved the European bid for the selection of blockchain service providers for the promotion of Made in Italy products in foreign markets. The beneficiaries of the services will be Italian SMEs.</p> <p>International bid on the Public Procurement marketplace (MEPA)</p>
Smart Export Academy - Accademia Digitale per l'internazionalizzazione	Smart Export digital Academy for Internationalisation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in collaboration with ICE-ITA Agency and the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI)	No	Implemented	10/03/2021	<p>Educational initiative for micro-SMEs and professionals that can benefit from free high-level managerial and digital training courses for internationalisation. Smart Export is structured into six training courses of five lessons each to be attended online until 09/03/2022.</p> <p>https://www.smartexportacademy.it/ Export Pact – June 2020</p>
START-UP ENVIRONMENT						
Fondo Rilancio Startup	Fund for Venture Capital	Ministry of Economic	No	Implemented	01/12/2020	A public fund was established to boost venture capital operations

		Development through the National Innovation Fund managed by the Italian National Promotional Institution 'Cassa Depositi e Prestiti'				<p>focused on Italian start-ups and innovative SMEs. The measure aims to encourage co-investment in capital by regulated or qualified investors. The value of each individual deal may not exceed a maximum of four times the investment made by co-investors, within the overall limit of €1 million for each start-up or innovative SME. The fund is endowed with a budget of €200 million.</p> <p>Ministerial Decree to implement art. 38, comma 3 of the Relaunch Decree</p>
Incentivo fiscale per investimenti in start-up e PMI innovative	Fiscal incentive for equity investments in start-ups and innovative SMEs	Italian Government	No	Implemented	01/03/2021	<p>A fiscal deduction of 50% for individual investors (natural persons) will be available on the sums invested in the share capital of one or more innovative start-ups or SMEs for a maximum investment of €100 000 for start-ups and €300 000 for innovative SMEs to be maintained for at least 3 years</p> <p>The fiscal measure was introduced in the Relaunch Decree in May 2020.</p>
Esenzione capital gain per investimenti in start-up e PMI innovative	Capital gains tax exemption for investments in start-ups and innovative SMEs	Italian Government	No	Implemented	26/05/2021	<p>Individual people who realise capital gains from the sale of equity investments in innovative start-up companies, acquired through the subscription of share capital in the period 2021-2025 and held for at least three years, benefit from an exemption on income tax.</p>

						‘Decree Sostegni bis’ n. 73 of 2021, art. 14
SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT						
Fondo Evoluzione	Evolution Fund	Ministry of Economic Development through the National Innovation Fund managed by the Italian National Promotional Institution ‘Cassa Depositi e Prestiti’ (CDP Equity)	No	Implemented	01/03/2021	<p>A public venture capital Fund is investing in deep-tech Italian companies to accelerate round A and B investments between €2 and 20 million. Total budget available is €100 million.</p> <p>https://www.cdpventurecapital.it/cdp-venture-capital/it/fondo_evoluzione.page</p>
Fondo Corporate Partners I	‘Corporate Partners I’ Fund	Ministry of Economic Development through the National Innovation Fund managed by the Italian National Promotional Institution ‘Cassa Depositi e Prestiti’ (CDP Equity)	No	Implemented	13/09/2021	<p>Public Venture Capital Fund operating in four sectors: Industry Tech, Energy Tech, Service Tech, and Infra Tech, each focused on a strategic supply chain, with operational participation of corporates in the specific sector of competence. The Fund is endowed with €180 million.</p> <p>https://www.cdpventurecapital.it/cdp-venture-capital/it/dettaglio_comunicato.page?contentId=COM1940</p>
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS						

Ecosistemi dell'innovazione nel Mezzogiorno	Innovation Ecosystem in Southern Italy	Agency for Territorial Cohesion	Yes	Implemented	29/09/2021	<p>A funding scheme to promote the creation of local innovation ecosystems by pulling together universities, research centres, SMEs and institutions to develop new ideas and innovative solutions with a potential impact on local industrial areas and infrastructures in Southern Italy. Each project will receive funding between €10 to 90 million covering up to 100% of eligible costs. The total available budget for the period 2022-2026 is €350 million.</p> <p>Open call from 29/09/2021 to 12/11/2021</p>
Credito d'imposta per aggregazioni tra aziende	Tax credit for business aggregations	Italian Government	No	Adopted	01/01/2021	<p>Fiscal incentives to encourage the growth of corporations through mergers, demergers and company transfers implemented until June 2022.</p> <p>Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020</p>
OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS						
Fondo Impresa Donna	Women Enterprise Fund	<p>Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE)</p> <p>Invitalia (National Agency for inward investment and economic development), implementing body</p>	Yes (co-financed)	Adopted	02/10/2021	<p>A national fund has been established to stimulate female entrepreneurship and women-led innovative projects. Educational programmes are also envisaged. Each project may receive a mix of resources in the form of loans and grants up to €250,000 for new companies (or €400,000 for already established companies). The total available budget is €440 million.</p>

						Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020
Pacchetto Turismo	Support measures for the Tourism sector	Italian Government	No	Adopted	01/01/2021	<p>Incentives and support measures were enacted to sustain the tourism sector which was heavily affected by the Covid containment measures. Incentives include: tax exemption for tourism, hotel accommodation and entertainment sectors; tax credit on rental fees for travel agencies and tour operators; and tax credit for tourist facilities renovation. The total available budget is €505 million.</p> <p>Budget Law n° 178 of 30/12/2020</p>
ON – Oltre Nuove Imprese a Tasso Zero	ON – New Enterprises at Zero rate	<p>Ministry of Economic Development</p> <p>Invitalia (National Agency for inward investment and economic development) is the implementing Agency</p>	No	Implemented	08/04/2021	<p>Support measures to encourage entrepreneurship in young people (18-35 years old) and women. The measure provides loans at zero interest rate (up to 75% coverage of eligible costs) and grants (up to 20%). Entrepreneurial projects for industry, trade, services and tourism sectors may reach a total investment up to €1.5 million (companies up to 3 years old) or €3 million (companies up to 5 years old).</p> <p>Circular of Ministry of Economic Development 08/04/2021 n. 117378 Ministerial Decree 04/12/2020</p>