

2022 SME COUNTRY FACTSHEET'S EVIDENCE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT



Finland



This document faithfully reproduces evidence from various relevant sources, thus providing SME-focused “pure facts” in the form of concise facts. This factual information arises from national evidence, data and insights, such as the SME-relevant recent national studies, surveys, publications, policy measures, etc. (including those published only in the national language) as well as relevant international studies and other relevant sources, indicators and statistics.

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Factual SME-related evidence	Source
KEY NOWCASTS & FORECASTS	
<p>In 2021, SMEs in Finland recovered in terms of value added and employment, achieving growth rates of 4.6 % and 0.2 % respectively, following a decline of 2.7 % in value added and 0.9 % in employment in 2020.</p>	<p>Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.</p>
<p>The <i>digital</i> ecosystem is one of few ecosystems in Finland that achieved positive growth in both 2021 and 2020. SME value added increased by 4.5 % in 2021 and 0.1 % in 2020, while SME employment grew by 2.6 % and 0.4 % respectively.</p>	<p>Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.</p>
<p>The <i>retail</i> ecosystem generated strong recovery growth in 2021, increasing by 7.7 % in SME value added and 2.3 % in SME employment, following a decline of 7.4 % and 0.7 % respectively in 2020.</p>	<p>Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.</p>
<p>Based on data from early 2022, it was expected that SME value added and SME employment in Finland would continue to grow by 4.2 % and 0.2 % respectively, but the war in Ukraine will affect these estimates.</p>	<p>Estimates and forecasts produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database, provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database and forecasts from the AMECO database.</p>
<p>In 2021, SMEs in Finland accounted for 65.2 % of employment and 58.7 % of value added, compared to 64.4 % and 51.8 %, respectively, in the EU as a whole.</p>	<p>Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY	
<p>The government will invest a maximum of EUR 150 million annually to support energy transition of energy-intensive industries (2022-2026). In its mid-term policy review, the Finnish government decided to introduce new subsidy for electrification for energy-intensive companies to create a stronger incentive for carbon-neutral production and for the electrification of energy-intensive companies. This subsidy will also take cost competitiveness into account. It was decided that the aid intensity of the electrification subsidy will be 25% and the ceiling EUR 150 million. Investments will account for 50% of the electrification subsidy.</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Office, Government decides policy positions for remaining part of its term and for 2022-2025 General Government Fiscal Plan, 2021. https://vnk.fi/-/hallitus-paattivaalikauden-lopun-linjauksista-ja-vuosien-2022-2025-julkisen-talouden-suunnitelmasta?languageId=en_US</p>
<p>The Finnish government organization for innovation funding and trade, travel and investment promotion called "Business Finland" is looking for new market opportunities by introducing Missions. They are intended to facilitate societal and systemic changes and to respond to global challenges. The first mission, introduced in June 2021, is Carbon Neutral Finland. A majority of Business Finland customers are SMEs.</p>	<p>Business Finland, Business Finland Seizes Future Market Opportunities Through Missions, 2021. Business Finland Seizes Future Market Opportunities through Missions - Business Finland</p>
<p>In Finland, 65% of entrepreneurs support carbon taxes on non-EU products and 64% say they support the EU's goal of reducing emissions by 55% compared to 1990 (2021).</p>	<p>Suomen Yrittäjät, Yrittäjiltä vahva tuki vastuullisuusajattelulle, 2021. https://www.yrittajat.fi/uutiset/yrittajilta-vahva-tuki-vastuullisuusajattelulle-vastuullisuus-on-bisnesalva/</p>



One third of Business Finland's SME customers have a business strategy based on sustainable development (2021).	Business Finland, Kestävän kehityksen tila pk-yrityksissä, 2021. https://www.businessfinland.fi/48fb89/globalassets/finnish-customers/news/news/2022/business-finland-kestava-kehitys--kyselytulokset-medialle-.pdf
In 2021, the proportion of SMEs offering green products or services was higher (41%) than the EU-27 average (31.6%).	European Commission, SME Performance Review Indicators, 2021.
SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY  ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY	
One of the objectives of the Finnish Government Programme is to improve the operating environment of social enterprises, especially to find employment for people with impaired capacity to work or who otherwise are in a difficult position. The Government Programme identifies the needs of different kinds of enterprises to facilitate their growth and renewal. In May 2021, the Government set up a new centre of expertise (Yhteiskunnallisten yritysten osaamiskeskus) to support social enterprises and to help employ people with partial work ability.	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment Social Enterprises in Finland, 2020. https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/162094/TEM_2020_10.pdf Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, New centre of expertise to support social enterprises and to help employ people with partial work ability, 2021. https://tem.fi/en/-/new-centre-of-expertise-to-support-social-enterprises-and-to-help-employ-people-with-partial-work-ability YYO, Yhteiskunnallisten yritysten osaamiskeskus, 2021. https://yyo.fi
A recent Entrepreneur Survey by the Suomen Yrittäjät says that 86% of entrepreneurs take corporate responsibility thinking strongly into account in their operations (2021).	Suomen Yrittäjät, Yrittäjiltä vahva tuki vastuullisuusajattelulle, 2021. https://www.yrittajat.fi/uutiset/yrittajilta-vahva-tuki-vastuullisuusajattelulle-vastuullisuus-on-bisnesalva/
The role of Social Enterprises in Finland is relatively small. The list of social enterprises by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, comprises only 20 enterprises. However, Finland has a huge number of cooperatives. A total of 3700 enterprises are classified as cooperatives with a turnover of EUR 33 millions (2019).	Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö, Osuustoiminta on tärkeä osa suomalaista markkinataloutta, Yrityskatsaus, 2021. https://yrityskatsaus.fi/osuustoiminta-on-tarkea-osa-suomalaista-markkinataloutta/ Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö, Rekisteriin merkityt sosiaaliset yritykset, 2021. https://tem.fi/rekisteriin-merkityt-yritykset
DIGITALISATION  DIGITALISATION	
The use of artificial intelligence is becoming more common. 12% of the smallest companies with 10-49 employees and 24% of medium-sized companies with less than 100 employees use artificial intelligence.	Statistics Finland, Tietotekniikan käyttö yrityksissä, 2021. https://www.tilastokeskus.fi/til/icte/2021/icte_2021_2021-12-03_fi.pdf
COVID-19 also had an impact on digitalisation. In 29 percent of enterprises, the number of people who have remote access to other parts of the company systems other than e-mail increased due in whole or in part to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.	Statistics Finland, Tietotekniikan käyttö yrityksissä, 2021. https://www.tilastokeskus.fi/til/icte/2021/icte_2021_2021-12-03_fi.pdf
The use of digital tools and services, such as e-commerce, by SMEs has doubled in the last two to three years. According to a survey published on digitalisation in SMEs in January 2021, most SMEs now use e-financial management and internal collaboration tools. Every third SME has an online store. The introduction of new digital tools in the early COVID-19 period (2020) mainly focused on video conferencing.	Suomen Yrittäjät, PK-yritysten opit digitalisaatiosta, 2021. Pk-yritysten opit digitalisaatiosta 2020 - Yrittajat.fi


In 2020, the proportion of Finnish enterprises buying cloud computing services was higher (75%) than the EU-27 average (35%).	European Commission, SME Performance Review Indicators, 2021.
Finland ranks 1st among EU countries, well above the EU average on the integration of digital technology by businesses. Some 88% of Finnish SMEs have a at least basic level of digital intensity, which is higher than the 60% EU average.	DESI 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirectio n/document/80484 .
INNOVATION  INNOVATION	
In 2020, 42,200 people worked in enterprise research and development tasks, which was 3,450 more than in the previous year. Growth was almost 9%. In small enterprises with less than 50 employees, the number of R&D personnel increased by 16%. In the mid-size enterprises 50-250 employees the increase was 21% in 2020.	Suomen virallinen tilasto (SVT), Tutkimus- ja kehittämistoiminta yrityksissä, 2021. https://www.stat.fi/til/tkke/2020/tkke_2020_2_021-10-28_fi.pdf
In 2020, R&D expenditure increased in SMEs. R&D expenditure of small enterprises with less than 50 employees increased by 18%. The mid-size enterprises under 250 employees had an increase in expenditure of 13%. In contrast, R&D expenditure by companies with more than 250 employees remained at the 2019 level.	Suomen virallinen tilasto (SVT), Tutkimus- ja kehittämistoiminta yrityksissä, 2021. https://www.stat.fi/til/tkke/2020/tkke_2020_2_021-10-28_fi.pdf
In the latest survey by Statistics Finland, more than 60% of companies employing at least ten people engaged in innovation activities in 2016-2018. In product innovations (goods or services), the share of innovating enterprises was still much higher (71%) than in SMEs (31.4% in small enterprises and 49.7% in mid-sized enterprises).	Tilastokeskus, Yritysten innovaatiotoiminta Suomessa, 2020. https://www.tilastokeskus.fi/til/inn/2018/inn_2_018_2020-04-23_fi.pdf
Finnish SMEs score as Product innovators (SMEs) 131.0 and as Business process innovators (SMEs) 125.9 relative to EU (in %), thus well above the EU average.	EIS 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/45913
SKILLS  SKILLS	
The shortage of skilled labour has increased drastically in 2021. According to a survey of the member companies of chambers of commerce, almost 75% of companies experienced a shortage or a large shortage of skilled labour. As many as 68% of the company estimate that the shortage of skilled labour has limited the growth and business of companies. About two out of three (63%) service companies that responded to Finnish service sector association Palta's survey say that labour shortages are currently a very significant or somewhat significant obstacle to the company's growth.	Keskuskauppakamari (Chamber of Commerce), Kauppakamarikysely: Lähes 75 prosenttia yrityksistä kärsii työvoimapulasta, 2021. https://kauppakamari.fi/tiedote/kauppakamari-kysely-lahes-75-prosenttia-yrityksista-karsii-tyovoimapulasta-rajoittaa-merkittavasti-yritysten-kasvua-ja-liiketoimintaa/ Palvelualojen työnantajat PALTA ry, Kansainvälisiä osaajia palvelualoille, 2021. https://www.palta.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Kansainvalisia-osaajia-palvelualoille_kyselyraportti.pdf
According to a study by the service company Barona (8.11.2021), there are few suitable experts in Finland, and 60% of the respondents believe that the need for foreign experts will increase in the company over the next two years. At the same time, almost 40% of Finnish employers have very weak ability or willingness to hire international workforce.	Barona, Kansainvälinen työvoima ja tulevaisuus -tutkimus, 2021. https://tiedotteet.barona.fi/baronan-tyonantajatutkimus-2021
Extended compulsory education takes effect in 2021. Young people will continue to study free of	Ministry of Education and Culture, The Extension of Compulsory Education, 2021.

charge either in general upper secondary school (high school), in vocational education or in other compulsory education and training programmes. The aims are, among others, to raise the level of education and competence in Finland and to raise the employment rate, which would also help SMEs to get skilled labour.	https://okm.fi/en/extension-of-compulsory-education
In 2020, the proportion of Finnish enterprises providing ICT skills training to their employees was higher (36.07%) than the EU-27 average (18.28%).	European Commission, SME Performance Review Indicators, 2021.
ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN  ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN	
Tax administration is planning a reform in VAT taxation (e.g. introducing VAT return per document). The proposed reform has met a lot of resistance due to expected additional work and costs.	Kauppalehti, Alv-raportoinnin kiristys tuo yrityksille jättilaskun, 2021. https://www.kauppalehti.fi/uutiset/alv-raportoinnin-kiristys-tuo-yrityksille-jattilaskun-ainoa-jarkeva-ratkaisu-on-lopettaa-tama-haahuilu-heti-sanoo-tilintarkastuksen-veteraani/883f5ef0-0082-4c23-9900-1f645e652a8c?ref=facebook%3Ab4a7
A new project (Yrityksen digitalous 2021-2024) has been introduced with the State Treasury as a coordinator aiming at the digitalisation of companies to make the movement of electronic documents and the daily financial management of companies smoother by using new digital data-transfer tools.	Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö, Uusi hanke edistää yritysten taloushallinnon digitalisoitumista, 2021. https://tem.fi/-/uusi-hanke-edistaa-yritysten-taloushallinnon-digitalisoitumista?languageId=fi_FI
A new Small Businesses in the Real Time Economy report was carried out by a large consortium of public bodies and associations in 2021. The result was a set of measures that each party can carry out to enable the small business owner to manage real-time financial activities and requirements at the lowest possible financial and administrative cost.	Teknologiateollisuus, Pienyritykset reaaliaikataloudessa -selvitystyö, 2021. https://teknologiateollisuus.fi/sites/default/files/inline-files/Pienyritykset%20reaaliaikataloudessa%20-selvitystyö%20-%20tuotokset%202021-05-31.pdf
REGULATORY OBSTACLES  REGULATORY OBSTACLES	
The government decided in the April 2021 mid-term review that in order to improve social security for sole proprietors, a follow-up study will be carried out by 2022 to reform entrepreneurial and wage income insurance and the payment of daily allowances in the direction of combined insurance.	Valtioneuvosto, Hallituksen linjaukset puoliväliriihessä, 2021. https://vnk.fi/documents/10616/56906592/Hallituksen+linjaukset+puoliväliriihessä+29.4.2021.pdf/fe9617f8-a257-90ea-2ade-9d9afe5284da/Hallituksen+linjaukset+puoliväliriihessä+29.4.2021.pdf?t=1620136120152
ACCESS TO FINANCE	
Corporate creditworthiness combined with low willingness to invest and pandemic uncertainties appear to have reduced demand for external financing. According to PK-yritysbarometri (2/2021), less than half of SMEs have a loan from a bank or from another financial institution.	Suomen Yrittäjät, PK-yritysbarometri, 2021. https://www.yrittajat.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/pk-yritysbarometri_syksy_2021_vk_kalvot.pdf
According to PK-yritysbarometri, 45% of companies have applied for COVID-19 subsidies (2020-2021). Most companies have found that subsidies have met needs at least to some extent.	Suomen Yrittäjät, PK-yritysbarometri, 2021. https://www.yrittajat.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/pk-yritysbarometri_syksy_2021_vk_kalvot.pdf
The results of the PK-yritysbarometri show that corporate financing, which has been gradually diversifying, suffered a setback. Almost one in ten SMEs said they had not applied for funding in the last year, even though there was a need for it. This is worrying, as the availability of traditional	Suomen Yrittäjät, PK-yritysbarometri, 2021. https://www.yrittajat.fi/tutkimukset/pk-yritysbarometri-2-2021/

bank financing for enterprises threatens to become more difficult in the future.	
In its mid-term policy review, the Finnish government outlined several measures to support the financing of enterprises. Approximately EUR 480 million is allocated to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and its branch of government, including payments for business development projects in the form of grants and loans and an estimate of the compensation for losses payable to Finnvera Oyj.	Valtioneuvosto, Hallituksen linjaukset puoliväliriihessä, 2021. https://valtioneuvosto.fi/-/10616/hallitus-paatti-vaalikauden-lopun-linjauksista-ja-vuosien-2022-2025-julkisen-talouden-suunnitelmasta
The government has introduced a Domestic Ownership Programme. In March 24, 2021, the working group for the programme proposed almost 70 measures to be implemented in the short or longer term to promote domestic ownership of enterprises. The first measures were introduced in the Mid-term policy review (April 29, 2021). The first concrete measure was to develop Finnvera's credit instruments. In this regard, Finnvera's cap of EUR 100,000 for loans to entrepreneurs will be augmented in order to introduce more effective financial resources.	Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö, Visio 2030: Kohti vastuullista ja osaavaa omistajayhteiskuntaa, 2021. https://tem.fi/en/-/report-diverse-responsible-and-competent-domestic-ownership-needed-to-strengthen-investments-growth-and-wellbeing
LATE PAYMENTS  LATE PAYMENTS	
The Yrittäjägallup survey carried out by Suomen Yrittäjät in March 2021 found out that 37% of SMEs say their contract partners or customers have extended the time to pay their bills during the COVID-19 crisis. The late payments therefore increased since May 2020, when 27% of SMEs said their payments have been delayed in the last two years. The most typical customers that delay their payments are large corporations (60%).	Suomen Yrittäjät, Yrittäjägallup, 2021. https://www.yrittajat.fi/tiedotteet/yritysten-valiset-maksuajat-pidentyneet-lain-noudattamista-pitaa-valvoa/
In a business survey conducted by Intrum in January-April 2021, 71% of the enterprises expected the risk of late payment and default to increase over the next 12 months, which is five percentage points higher than the European average.	Intrum, European Payment Report 2021 Suomi, 2021. https://www.intrum.fi/media/11800/epr-2021_finland.pdf
35% of Finnish companies say that slow payments stifles the growth plans of the enterprises	Intrum, European Payment Report 2021 Suomi, 2021, page 3: https://www.intrum.fi/media/11800/epr-2021_finland.pdf
ACCESS TO MARKETS  ACCESS TO MARKETS	
According to customs foreign trade statistics, the value of exports of SMEs was EUR 2.6 billion in Q3 2021. The value of SMEs' exports increased by 21.9% year-on-year. SMEs accounted for 15.2% of the total value of exports of goods.	Tulli, Tavaroiden ulkomaankauppa yritysten kokoluokittain -heinä-syyskuu 2021, 2021. https://tulli.fi/-/tavaroiden-ulkomaankauppa-yritysten-kokoluokittain-heina-syyskuu-2021
Business Finland was successful in supporting export activities. As the total exports of Finnish SMEs decreased in 2020, the total exports of Business Finland's SME customers increased by EUR 71 million (+ 1%). The 10 percent of Business Finland's SME customers that were most successful in increasing exports increased their exports by a total of EUR 842 million (+ 57%). The increase in exports took place in a situation where the interest rate pandemic virtually halted	Business Finland, Business Finland onnistui koronavuonna vauhdittamaan yritysten uudistumista ja vientiä, 2021. https://www.businessfinland.fi/ajankohtaista/utiset/tiedotteet/2021/business-finland-onnistui-koronavuonna-vauhdittamaan-yritysten-uudistumista-ja-vientia

economic growth and affected international demand and supply chains in many ways.	
The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK) survey (May 2021) found that the number of exporting enterprises has been growing from 2020. According to the survey, the estimated number of exporting enterprises has risen from 18,000 in June 2020 to 21,000 in May 2021.	The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK), Yrityskyselyn tulokset 05/2021: Arviot kehysriihestä ja viennistä, 2021. https://ek.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Yrityskysely_05_2021.pdf
Finnish SMEs engage in international trade less than the OECD average.	OECD SME and Entrepreneurship Outlook 2021
A relatively limited share of Finnish SMEs sell online cross-border (9% versus the 8% average in the EU).	DESI 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirectio n/document/80484
START-UP ENVIRONMENT  START-UP ENVIRONMENT	
The Finnish Startup Community was established on October 7th, 2021. It consists of 100 different Finnish growth companies from different stages, from early stage startups up to the ten biggest Finnish growth companies. The goal is for start-ups to become a significant economic and social pillar in Finland, and for Finland to become a large part of the world's leading technology companies in the future. The founding members of the community are a number of well-known investors and start-ups, e.g. Lifeline Ventures, Maki.VC, Supercell, and Wolt.	Finnish Startup Community, Together for the benefit of Finland, 2021. https://startupyhteiso.com/en/ STT, Supercellin ja sadan muun suomalaisen kasvuyrityksen muodostama Suomen startup-yhteisö ry julkisti toimitusjohtajansa ja tavoitteensa Suomen tulevaisuuteen, 2021. https://www.sttinfo.fi/tiedote/supercellin-ja-sadan-muun-suomalaisen-kasvuyrityksen-muodostama-suomen-startup-yhteiso-ry-julkisti-toimitusjohtajansa-ja-tavoitteensa-suomen-tulevaisuuteen?publisherId=69818937&releaseId=69920942
Finnish start-ups have raised a record amount of growth money. The half-billion mark reached in the previous two years was already a record, but then the amount has almost doubled: a total of EUR 951 million was raised in 2020, of which the share of foreign investors was 57%. The largest group of investors are venture capital investors, who in 2020 invested a total of EUR 495 million in Finnish start-ups. In the first half of 2021, EUR 560 million has been invested.	The Finnish Venture Capital Association, Startup Funding in Finland 2020, 2021. https://paaomasijoittajat.fi/wp-content/uploads/20210420_mediaset_webpage_s_FVCA_EN_FINAL.pdf The Finnish Venture Capital Association, Venture capital Suomessa H1/2021, 2022. https://paaomasijoittajat.fi/wp-content/uploads/VC_Suomessa_H1-2021.pdf
SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT  SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT	
The number of growth enterprises in Finland has grown steadily from 2014 to 2019. In 2014, there were 714 growth companies in Finland; in 2019, there were already 1,227 of them. In 2019, only 575 growth enterprises were "genuinely grown". In 91 cases the background was a merger, in 170 cases a foreign group and in 391 cases a domestic group.	Tilastokeskus, Kasvuyritykset keskittyvät keskuksiin, mutta syrjemälläkin on niille edellytyksiä, 2021. https://www.stat.fi/tietotrendit/artikkelit/2021/kasvuyritykset-keskittyvat-keskuksiin-mutta-syrjemmallakin-on-niille-edellytyksia/
KPMG and Venture Capitalists conducted a study on the gender diversity of Finnish venture capitalists in the management teams and boards of portfolio companies in 2021 (whereas these enterprises are some of the key growth enterprises in Finland). According to the study, 10% of the Board members and 20% of the management team members were female in 2020.	KPMG & Pääomasijoittajat ,Sukupuolijakauma suomalaisten pääomasijoittajien portfolioryitysten johtoryhmissä ja hallituksissa, 2021. https://paaomasijoittajat.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021-Diversity-study-fi.pdf
In the Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland, a financing instrument "Innovation aid for growth enterprises (P3C3I4)" was introduced.	Finnish Government, The Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland, Publications of the Finnish Government 2021:69, 2021.

The estimated total amount of funding is EUR 20 million and will be distributed in 2022-2023.	https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/163363/VN_2021_69.pdf
IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS  IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS	
Finnish enterprises have suffered less from the COVID-19 than EU average. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Statistics Finland (2021), SMEs in Finland "seem less vulnerable to shocks in trade than large businesses, although they are affected indirectly".	OECD & Statistics Finland, Finland: Road to Recovery after COVID-19, 2021. https://www.oecd.org/sdd/its/Finland-COVID-Report-May-2021.pdf
According to a survey carried out by Tesi in the spring of 2021, the COVID-19 situation has punished enterprises less than feared. According to the survey results, enterprises have significantly restructured their business during the interest rate crisis in all the industries surveyed. 73% of the responding enterprises have taken some steps to increase their turnover, either permanently or temporarily. For example, around 40% of SMEs that responded to the survey have focused their sales on new customer segments or sought new ways to deliver their products and services to their customers through digital channels.	Tesi, Koronan vaikutukset pk-yrityksiin - Uudistumista ja kasvuhallukkuutta näköpiirissä, 2021. https://www.tesi.fi/tiedote/koronan-vaikutukset-pk-yrityksiin-uudistumista-ja-kasvuhallukkuutta-nakopiirissa/
NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN  NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN	
The Finnish recovery plan has many areas that can potentially support the growth of SMEs. A great part of the funding is channeled through Business Finland and enterprises (and in some cases SMEs specifically) which are the target groups. Around EUR 150-170 million per year will be granted through Business Finland between 2021 and 2023. Around 70% of the Business Finland funding goes to SMEs.	<p>Finnish Government, The Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland, Publications of the Finnish Government 2021:69, 2021. https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/163363/VN_2021_69.pdf</p> <p>Business Finland, Business Finland and the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland, 2021. https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/campaign-sites/sustainable-growth-program-for-finland</p> <p>Business Finland, Tilinpäätös 2020, 2021. https://www.businessfinland.fi/492a8b/globalassets/finnish-customers/about-us/tulosohjaus/bf_tilinpaaotos_2020.pdf</p>
All the four key areas of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, namely, green transition, digitalisation, employment and skills, and health and social services, provide measures that are also targeted to SMEs. Many of the measures deal with innovation and value chains but also challenges such as the low share of SMEs in exports. Examples of measures with SMEs as a significant target group include Innovation aid for growth enterprises (EUR 20 million), corporate innovation infrastructures EUR 25 million), Growth accelerator programme for small enterprises (EUR 10 million), Revitalisation aid for the cultural and creative industries (EUR 40 million) and Sustainability and digitalisation growth in the tourism industry (EUR 20 million).	Finnish Government, The Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland, Publications of the Finnish Government 2021:69, 2021. https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/163363/VN_2021_69.pdf
Under the recovery plan, the theme "Raising the employment rate and upskilling to accelerate	Finnish Government, The Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland, 2021.

sustainable growth” highlights the key problem of shortage of skilled labour but also seeks to renew the interaction between SMEs and employment services.	https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/163363/VN_2021_69.pdf
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS *  NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	
The Finnish Government introduced in June 2021 the Strategy for the renewal of industry. The strategy working group proposes objectives and measures under various policy themes to make Finland the world’s most competitive operating environment in 2030 for industry aiming to be carbon neutral. One of the most important objectives is to increase industrial investments in Finland.	Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö, Uudistuvan teollisuuden strategia, Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriön julkaisuja 2021:44, 2021. https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163275
OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS  OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS	
SME participation in public procurement is relatively low. According to the Single Market Scoreboard, the proportion of SME bids in public procurement is below EU average. This indicates barriers preventing smaller firms from participating in public procurement procedures	Public Procurement Single market scoreboard (europa.eu)

* "National industrial ecosystems" refer to the national aspects of the industrial ecosystems as defined by the EC.

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6355326c-ae95-11eb-9767-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>