UNLOCKING PRODUCTIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACROSS THE POPULATION

22 October 2026

What is the OECD doing?

Monitoring and reporting on trends; identifying policy lessons

Participation and gaps: How do business creation rates differ by age, sex, place of birth and disability status? To what extent is there untapped entrepreneurial potential?

Business outcomes: How do business performance, innovation and job creation differ across groups?

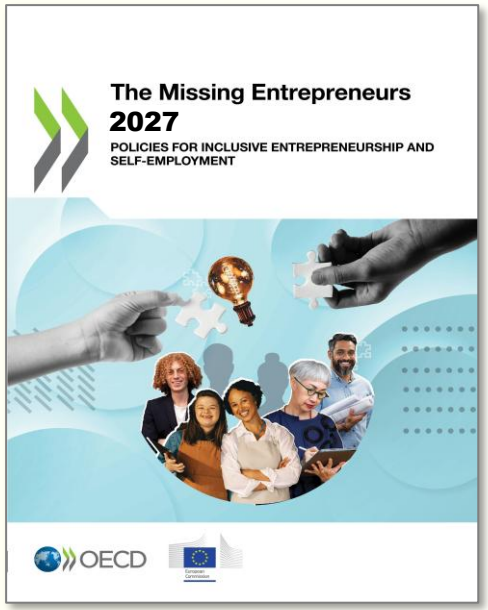
Barriers: How do barriers to business creation and growth differ across countries and population groups?

Policy effectiveness: What works and why? What is the evidence? How should support be tailored to different target groups?

Sharing policy lessons: What can governments learn from each other?

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The Missing Entrepreneurs 2027…



I. Indicators on activity rates and barriers:

- Six chapters presenting internationally comparable indicators on motivations, activities, barriers, etc. :
  1. Women
  2. Youth
  3. Immigrants
  4. Seniors
  5. Unemployed
  6. People with disabilities

II. Policy analysis and advice:

1. The effectiveness of inclusive entrepreneurship schemes: Lessons from the past 15 years.
2. Designing effective inclusive entrepreneurship interventions: When to use tailored approaches?

➢ **Launch in 2027Q1**

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…which adds to large body of work



The Missing Entrepreneurs (7 editions)



Thematic reports and papers



Country-specific policy studies



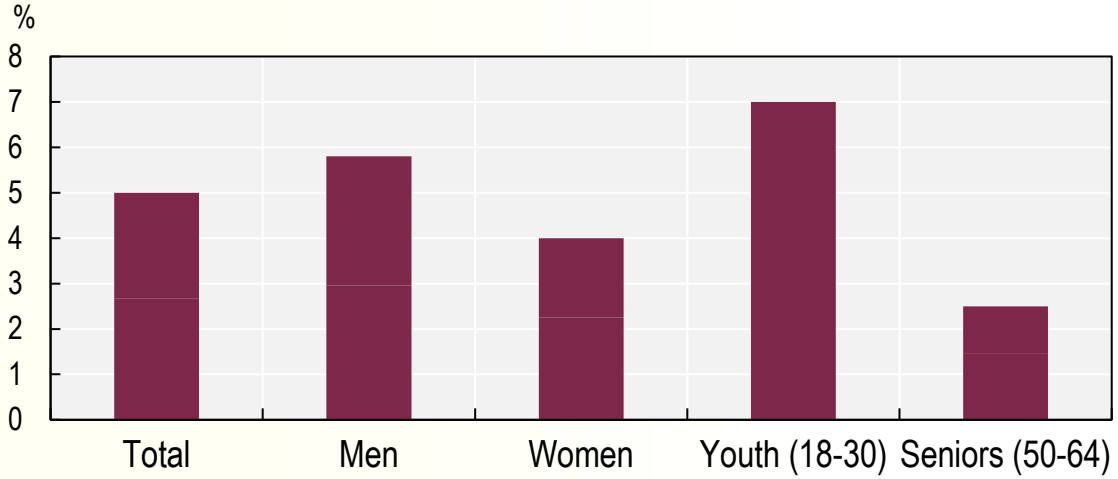
Policy tools and networks

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What do we know?

There is untapped entrepreneurial potential across the population

Share of population managing a new business across the OECD, 2021-25



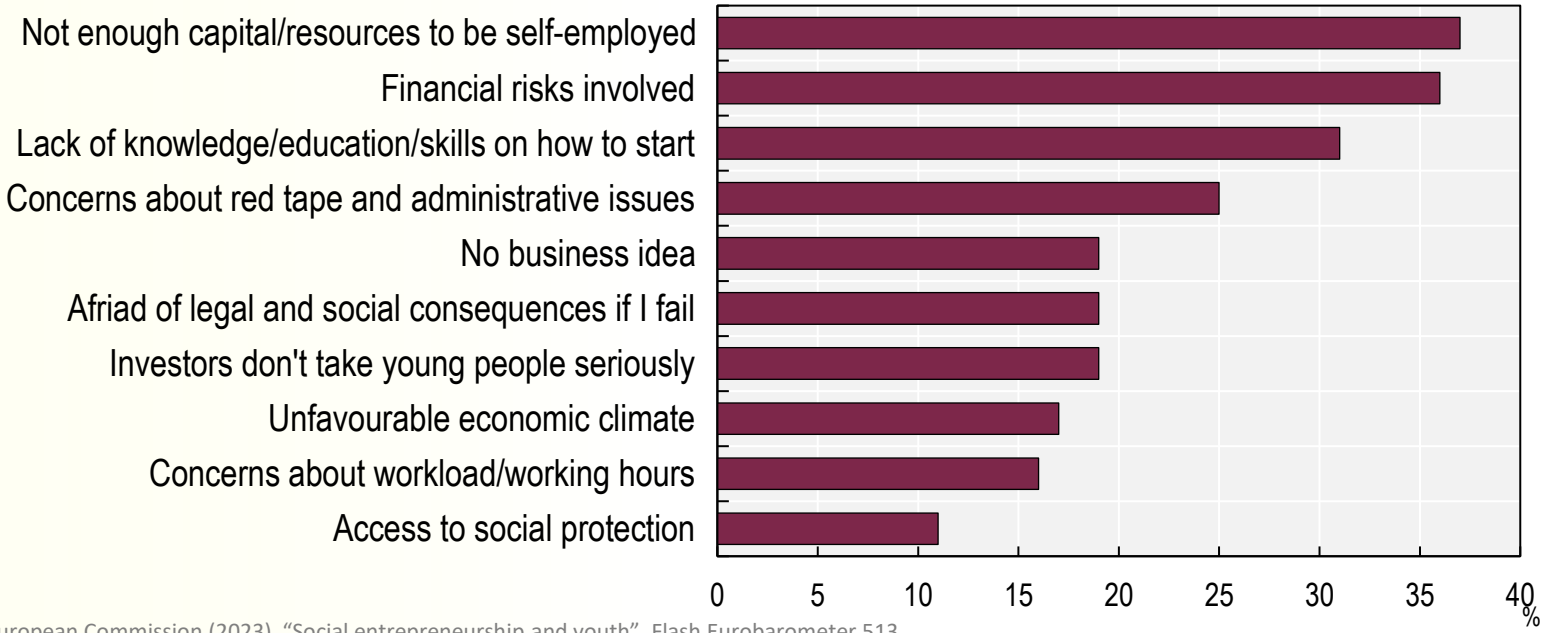
Source: GEM (2026), Special tabulations for the OECD of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) adult population survey for the years 2021 to 2025.

- Governments can unlock this potential by:
  - Improving business environment
  - Setting strong policy frameworks
  - Offering tailored and targeted measures
  - Partnering with private sector and NGOs for outreach and delivery

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…but reducing barriers could unlock more productive entrepreneurship

Which of the following stops young people (15-30 years old) from becoming entrepreneurs? EU, 2022



Source: European Commission (2023), "Social entrepreneurship and youth", Flash Eurobarometer 513.

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What are the knowledge gaps?



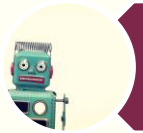
Measurement: Better data on business performance, growth and economic impact.



Prove what works: Stronger evidence on the effectiveness of policy interventions, especially long-term outcomes; financial vs. non-financial support



Understand overlapping disadvantages: How gender, age, migration background, disability and other factors interact.



AI and technology: leveller or divider? Will digital transformation unlock opportunities or widen entrepreneurial gaps?



Identify and quantify barriers: Better evidence on obstacles to business creation, survival and growth.

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Thank you!

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