

Romania

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SMEs are not fashion, they must be regarded as sensibly and benefit less from words and more from concrete support. They should be considered with high attention, as the backbone of economy. Despite of all statements that have been made, SMEs are supported barely satisfactory until now unfortunately.

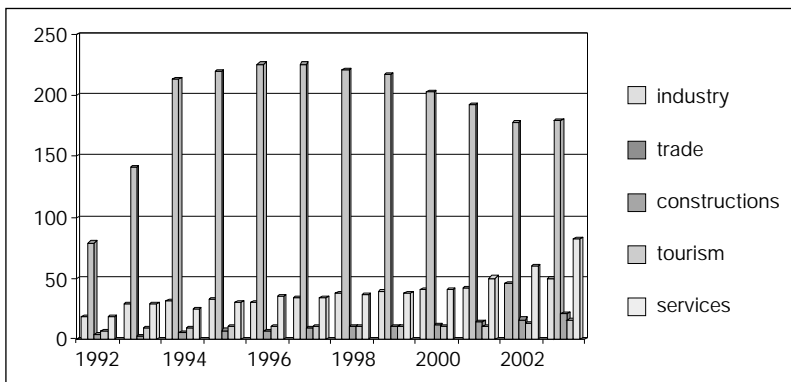
In Romania, as in other countries from the East of Europe, there are several directions in which a realistic and pragmatic supporting strategy of SMEs should be focused. Among of all *locations* and *incentives for start-up and development*, there is certain need of supporting the access of the SMEs to *financing programmes* and *centres*, to those *business initiation facilities* not contradicting the free and loyal competition rules.

Moreover, the activity of small and medium-sized enterprises can be facilitated through the access to *modern technologies transferring*, as well as to *information*, includes that regarding good *practices* in the business field.

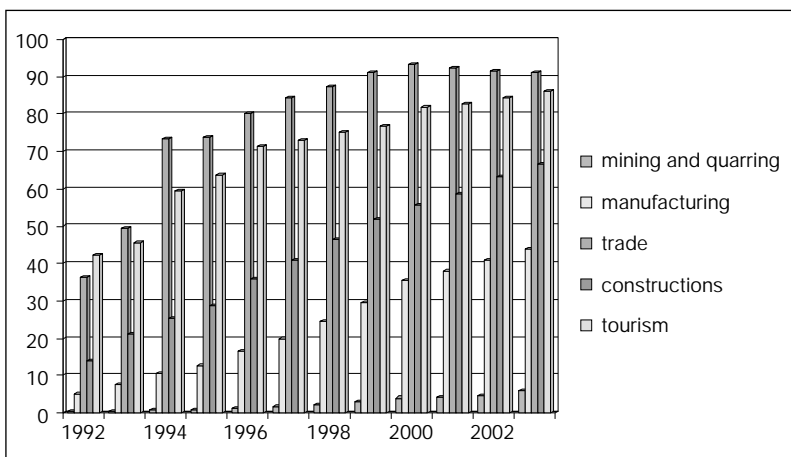
Another concrete support refers to information regarding *business opportunities*, *specialized cooperation networks*, as well as the *training and expertise* of the personnel used by the SMEs. In this field, the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry network system (generally) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bucharest (in particular), have developed an acknowledged education system, namely the Romanian Business School, with branches in Bucharest and in the other regions of the country. The purpose of all these actions is to increase the companies' competitiveness, the quality of service and goods, with observance of environmental protection norms, in accordance with the European Union practices.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bucharest has priority SME support programmes, considering that almost one fifth of the total number of such enterprises from Romania operate in Bucharest, the capital city. There are about 76,000 SMEs in Bucharest, meaning 35.5 SMEs to one thousand inhabitants, and 44.6 SMEs/ sqkm the highest density from Romania.

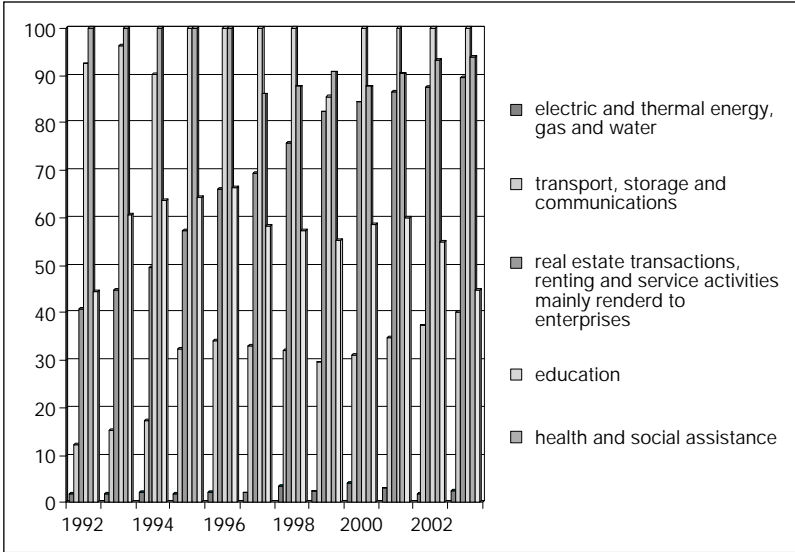
Evolution of SME



Job created by SMEs, p.c from total



Contribution of SMES in total turnover created by companies



SMEs play a great role in the generation of new positions. The sectors in which the SMEs have absorbed the highest amount of work force in Romania are trade, tourism and constructions. Among those services, the most popular sectors are education, health and transportation.

Most of the SME support resources should be directed towards productive companies from the field of services, as well, including from the IT&C sector, having high quality standards and requiring access to funds and the latest technologies. The major advantage of these SMEs consists of the fact that they have the highest contribution to middle class formation, to the increase of the living standard, indeed representing, as it is often said, the backbone of any modern economy.