



EU's AEO PROGRAMME

AEO & Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Addressing Challenges & Promoting Participation



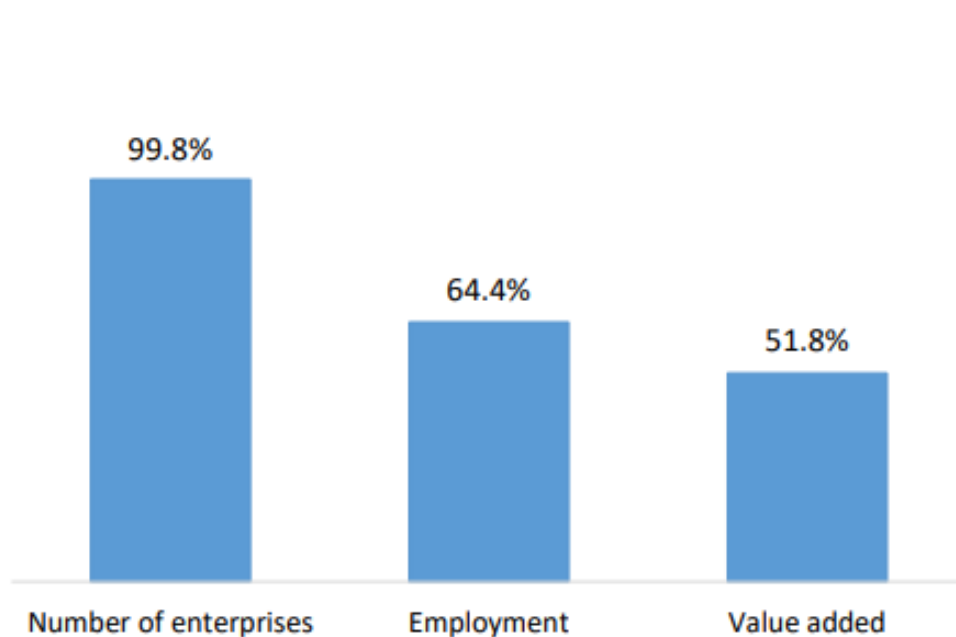
6th WCO Global AEO
Conference
8-10 May 2024
Shenzhen, China



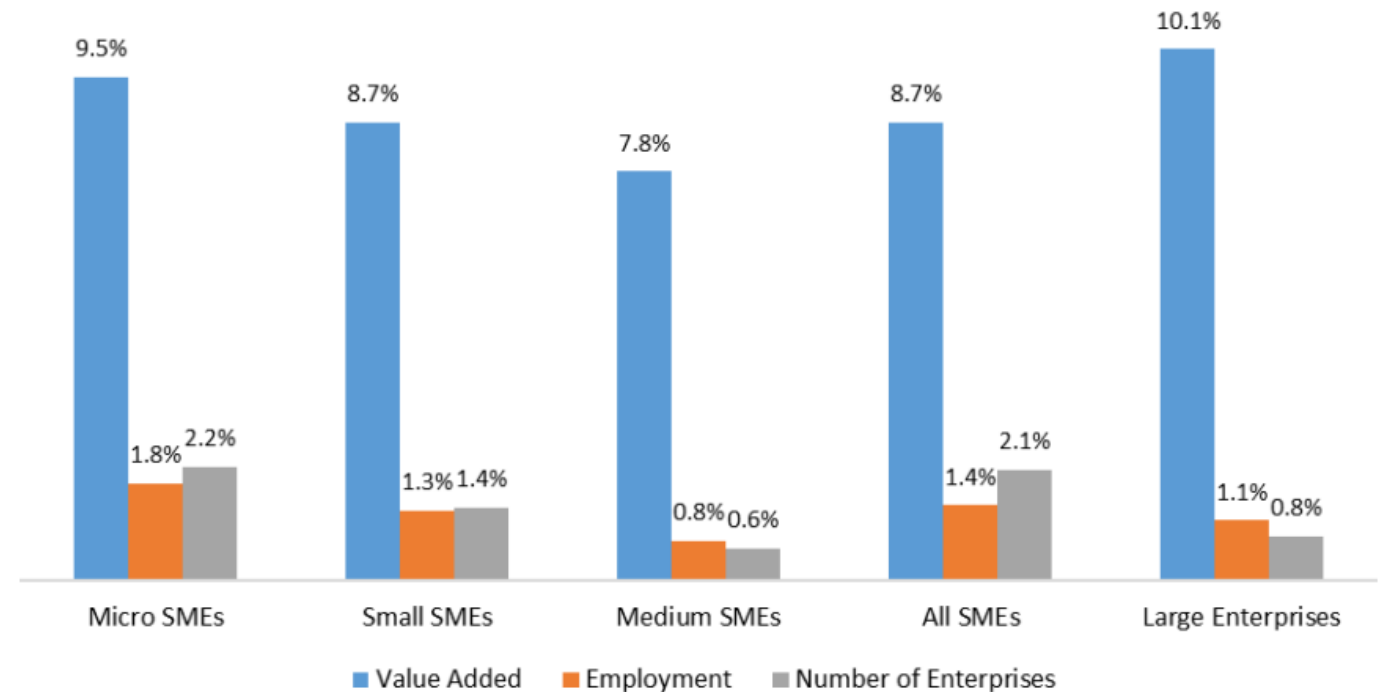
10 May 2024

SME's role in the EU economy

Share of SMEs in the number of NFBS enterprises and of NFBS employment and value added (2022)



Annual change in growth rates (nominal value added), employment and number of enterprises by size (2021)

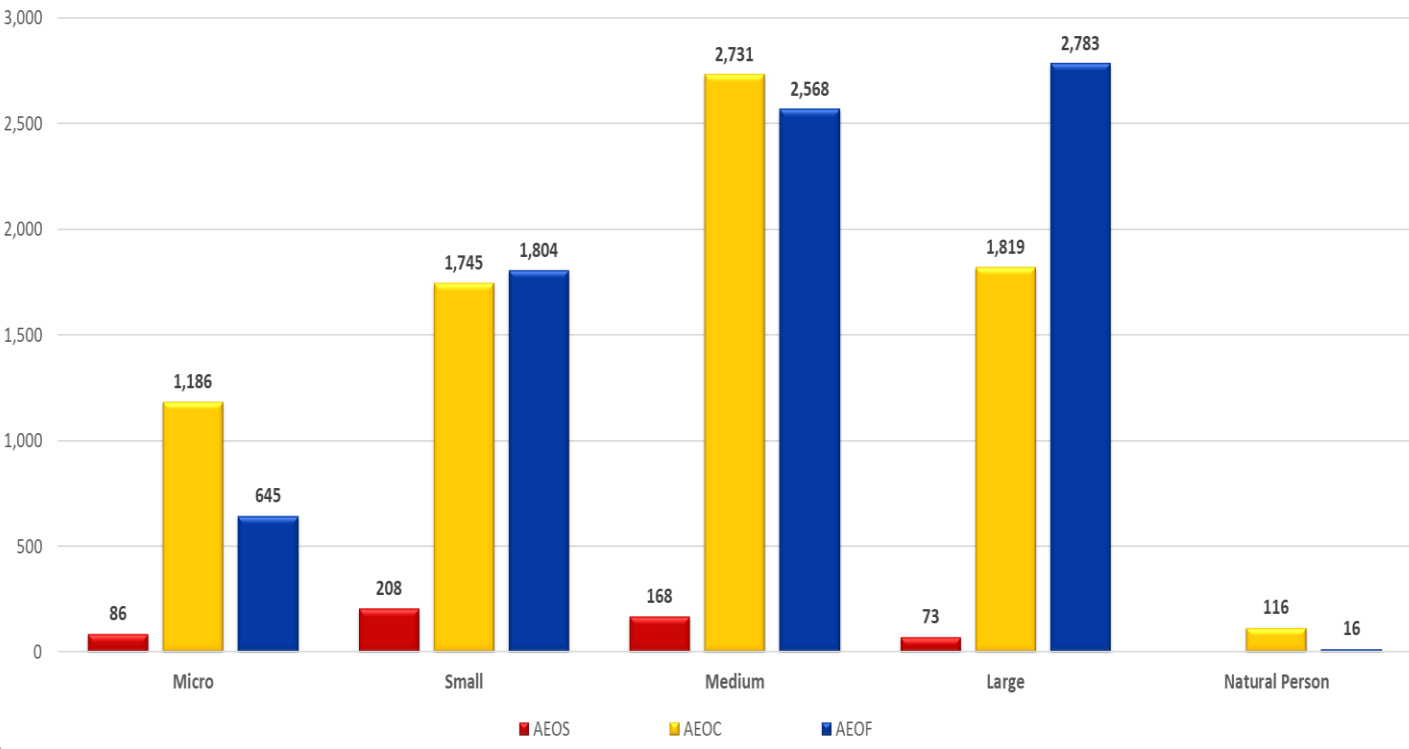


Source: Calculation by the Joint Research Center based on Eurostat's Structural Business Statistics, Short-Term Business Statistics and National Accounts Database

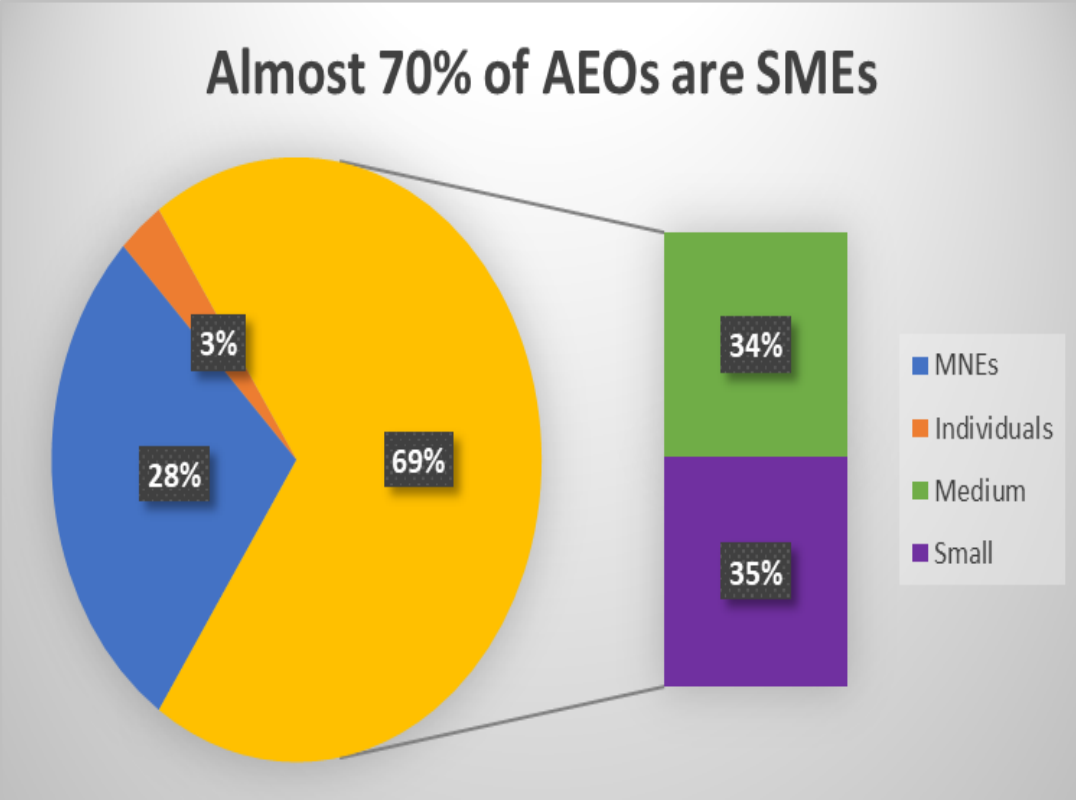
NFBS: non-financial business sector

SMEs opt for the AEO status

Applicant size (valid AEO authorisations) (status -31/12/2023)



Almost 70% of AEOs are SMEs



EU Authorised Economic Operator

One programme that applies to all EU Economic Operators
In all EU Member States

Open to all economic operators,
Including Small and Medium Sized enterprises

Regardless of the role in the international supply chain,
Provided that the operator is established in the EU customs territory and
complies with the criteria and obligations

Article 29 (4) UCC IA

'The customs authorities shall take due account of the specific characteristics of economic operators, in particular of small and medium-sized companies, when examining the fulfilment of the AEO criteria'

SMEs and AEO Requirements Examples

Record keeping to facilitate audit-based customs controls

Large: Use of integrated system directly facilitating customs authorities' audit

SMEs: Possibility of cross checks between customs records and the accounting system (via automated link, interface/ cross references in systems)

Security of the building

Large: Perimeter wall/fence, security guards and CCTV etc.

SMEs: Proper secure locks on doors, windows and filing cabinets.

Education and training of personnel regarding security policies

Large: Official training procedure, mechanism and material updated regularly

SMEs: Oral training, recall of basic security and safety requirements, note of awareness



Inclusive & sustainable economic growth for SMEs

Tailored mechanisms to the needs and specific characteristics of SMEs

Taking into consideration the limited resources and capabilities of SMEs

SMEs integrated in the AEO scheme in a balanced way without unnecessary barriers

Accessibility ensured for SMEs to the AEO programme



Thank you

Matthias Petschke
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Director