

## Declaration on Data Confidentiality 2023/099

### Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(“the OECD” or “the Organisation”)

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The OECD will receive microdata from the Directorate-General Statistics – Statistics Belgium (“Statbel”), to be used for the OECD project entitled “*Helping SMEs Scale up*” (the “Project”) as described in the Project description attached in Appendix 1 to this declaration.

Statbel communicates data, after consulting its Data Protection Officer, based on article 15, first paragraph, 5°, of the Belgium law of 4th July 1962 on official statistics applicable to Statbel which provides for the communication of pseudonymised data to international organizations of which Belgium is a member, provided that these data will only be processed for statistical or scientific research purposes.

Microdata provided to the OECD by Member countries on a confidential basis, will be protected as confidential official information in accordance with the OECD Council Resolution on Classification and Declassification of Information [[C\(97\)64/REV1/FINAL](#)] (the “Resolution”).

OECD “official information” falling within the scope of protection under the Resolution, includes documents and other material received from Member countries. Such documents and other material received by the Organisation on a confidential basis should be treated in the same manner as official documents bearing the “*Confidential*” classification, i.e. as “*information the unauthorised disclosure of which would seriously prejudice the interest of the Organisation or any of its Member countries.*” More particularly, market-sensitive and commercially sensitive material fall within this classification category.

The Resolution further provides that “*The Member countries and the Secretary-General will take the necessary measures to ensure the security of official information.*”

Furthermore, the OECD Regulations, Rules and Instructions applicable to Officials of the Organisation (“Staff Regulations”), to which all OECD officials are subject in accordance with their employment contract, bind OECD officials to an obligation of confidentiality. Regulation 4 provides in the relevant part:

“Officials shall: [...]

f) protect the confidentiality of sensitive, unpublished information that has come to their attention in the course of their official duties;

g) continue to be bound by the obligation referred to in f) above after leaving the Organisation.”

Any violation by OECD officials of their obligations under Regulation 4 are expressly designated as being misconduct that may result in disciplinary action.

All microdata files provided by Statbel for the purpose of the Project must be destroyed within thirty (30) days of completion of the Project. The obligation to destroy data does not apply to non-confidential

outputs/results/aggregated data derived during the lifetime of the Project including non-confidential or aggregated data presented in published reports or other publications.

*Protection of personal data*

“OECD Data Protection Rules” means the OECD internal rules on data protection, which are the only rules governing Personal Data protection that are applicable to the OECD. They are currently set out in the [Decision of the Secretary-General on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of their personal data](#), Annex XII of the Staff Regulations, Rules and Instructions applicable to Officials of the Organisation;

“Personal Data” means any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual;


“Processing” means any operation which is performed on Personal Data whether or not by automated means. “Process/Processed” shall be construed accordingly.

The parties intend that Personal Data may not form part of the data provided by Statbel for the Project.


As an independent intergovernmental organisation, the OECD is not subject to any national or regional legislation and the only rules governing personal data protection that are applicable to the OECD are the OECD Data Protection Rules. In the event that any Personal Data is Processed by the OECD in relation to the Project, the OECD is the controller of such Personal Data and shall comply with the OECD Data Protection Rules.

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed as a waiver of the OECD’s privileges and immunities as an international organisation.

**For the OECD**

Signature: **DocuSigned by:**  
  
Print Name: Paul Schreyer  
Title: 814ADB5A7BA44B9...  
OECD Chief Statistician  
Date:

**For Statbel**

Signature:  
Print Name: Philippe Mauroy  
Title: Director-general a.i  
Date: **Philippe Mauroy**  
(Signature)  Digitally signed by Philippe Mauroy (Signature)  
Date: 2023.09.26 16:07:46 +02'00'

Appendix 1: Project description

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Project description**

Small and medium-sized enterprises that scale up (i.e., high growth SMEs) have long raised policy attention for their strong potential to create jobs, stimulate innovation and raise competitiveness in countries and regions. However, scalers are few, diverse and little is known about their characteristics and the types of transformation they go through. The scale up project contributes to reducing knowledge gaps on who scalers are, how they transform and grow, and what governments can and are doing to support them.

In 2021 the OECD completed a pilot project based on data from five countries: Finland, Italy, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, and Spain. The pilot project has been successful in providing many new policy messages and indicators. Moreover, the pilot project has effectively demonstrated the significant value of leveraging administrative firm-level data within each country.

The project is now entering into its second phase, intending to refine the analysis and collect data for more than 15 countries across the OECD. To ensure that results are comparable across countries, the OECD has developed a harmonized analytical approach and standardised statistical packages to extract the required indicators from confidential micro-data repositories of the individual countries.

Leveraging firm-level financial and employment data, the project provides a detailed portrait of the growth patterns of scalers. Leveraging employer-employee linked databases, the analysis compares the skill profile of scalers (e.g., assessing the share of information technology specialist in the workforce) with similar companies before, during, and after their scaling up period. Moreover, the framework includes examining the role digitalisation, of access to finance, and of integration in the global markets, using product-level foreign trade data.