

FOSTERING CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR SMEs



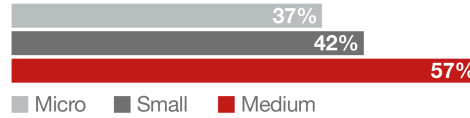
A 2026 snapshot of sustainability action across 11 EU countries, based on survey data from 1,110 SMEs interviewed by the SDA Bocconi Sustainability Lab

SUSTAINABILITY ADOPTION REMAINS RESILIENT AMONG SMES

41% RESILIENT SUSTAINABILITY ADOPTION of SMEs

4 out of 10 European SMEs already have, or will soon implement, a sustainability strategy.

Size matters: % of SMEs that have already or will soon adopt a sustainability strategy by company size



Larger firms lead adoption, reflecting a link between scale and sustainability engagement.

FOCUS: FRANCE

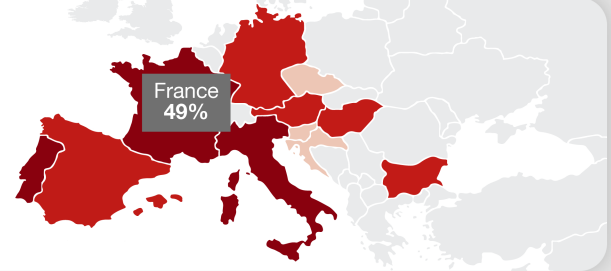
CONVERGENCE CONTINUES WITH FRANCE AMONG LEADING ADOPTERS

Change 2026 vs. 2020:

+10pp in France

Sustainability adoption rate:

31%-39% 40%-45% 46%-49%



THE BUSINESS CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY HAS MATURED IN FRANCE

78% INCREASED COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE of SMEs

say that adopting a sustainability plan has given them a competitive advantage

69% BETTER INSURANCE CONDITIONS of SMEs

indicate better insurance conditions from adopting a sustainability plan

63% BETTER CREDIT CONDITIONS of SMEs

identify better credit conditions as a benefit of adopting a sustainability plan

CLIMATE RISK RISES BUT THE PROTECTION GAP REMAINS WIDE

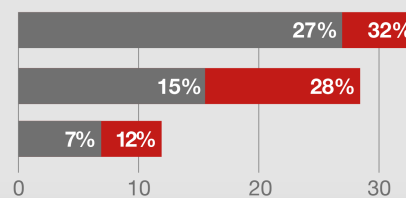
RIISING CLIMATE RISK AWARENESS

50% of French SMEs

report being aware of climate change risks

HOW FRENCH SMEs PROTECT THEMSELVES

Insurance against damages from extreme climate events
Business interruption insurance
Public-private partnerships for climate risk management



PERSISTENT PROTECTION GAP

68% of French SMEs

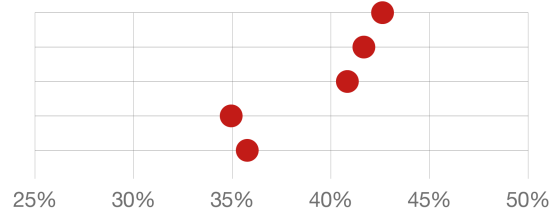
remain unprotected against natural catastrophes

BARRIERS: RULES AND INCENTIVES SET THE PACE

% OF FRENCH SMEs INDICATING BARRIERS AS IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT

Lack of institutional support (bureaucracy, regulatory complexity)
Lack of public incentives
Lack of a clear legislative framework
Lack of economic/financial resources
Lack of internal skills and competencies

2026



WHAT POLICYMAKERS CAN DO



1. Deliver size-sensitive regulatory simplification while integrating risk awareness more effectively into public planning
2. Strengthen EU and national incentives targeting firms approaching sustainability adoption, and link support to risk reduction
3. Promote the sustainability business case among SMEs

WHAT THE FINANCIAL SECTOR CAN DO



1. Translate sustainability performance into financial access
2. Address the climate protection gap through innovative risk-transfer solutions
3. Act as transition partners with structured advisory services and SME-specific engagement strategies