



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 87

Date of Issue	24 March 2023
Project Code	21-CL-17-GE-OSM-A
Title	Multicountry Observational Study Mission on Best Practices in Lean and Digital Transformation for SMEs
Timing	19 June 2023–23 June 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	Turkiye
Venue City(ies)	Konya
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Department for Productivity Implementations, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Turkiye (NPO Turkiye)
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	8
Closing Date	24 April 2023
Remarks	Not applicable

Objectives	Observe lean management practices in Turkish SMEs; study how digital upgrading is initiated based on lean management; and observe the best practices of lean and digital transformation (DX) adopted by SMEs in model factories.
Rationale	Lean and DX are two approaches to improving efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness. While they are distinct, combining them gives extra benefits. Since lean methods have been widely applied in SMEs in APO members, and DX is making headway, this study mission will provide opportunities for participants to learn how the two approaches complement each other.
Background	<p>Lean is a methodology that focuses on reducing waste and increasing efficiency in organizational processes. It is based on the concept that continuous improvement requires all processes that do not add value to be eliminated. This method can be applied in any sector. On the other hand, DX maximizes technology use to improve organizational operations, enhance customer experience, and create new business models.</p> <p>DX is now indispensable to ensure productivity and competitiveness. The unprecedented pandemic accelerated digital adoption. Lean management, as a powerful tool to optimize resources, builds the foundations for organizations to start DX in the most resource-efficient way. This study mission will focus on model factories and "Learn and Transform" Programs in Turkiye to enhance participants' understanding of how to initiate and sustain lean practices and digitalization in SMEs in an applied-learning environment.</p>
Topics	Lean management and practices in SMEs; DX concept and approaches; Model factory concept and implementation; Site visits to selected SMEs; and Observations of the integration of lean and DX.
Outcome	Participants will develop lean manufacturing competencies through hands-on training in model factories and observe best practices on-site.
Qualifications	SME owners or senior managers, government officials, and NPO professionals involved in development strategies and productivity improvement initiatives for SMEs and the manufacturing sector; and senior representatives of industrial associations.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



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