

Survey Results: Priorities for the TFs & CTGs

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B20 Germany is committed to finding holistic solutions to complex problems. In order to better assess the priorities the individual Task Forces (TFs) and Cross-Thematic Groups (CTGs) should address, the B20 secretariat conducted a survey among business associations of G20 members, global business networks, B20 2016 participants and organizers, as well as international businesses. The topic areas of the survey were based on previous G20 agendas, internationally debated topics, government agendas, and the scope of G20 action. The results for each group are summarized below.

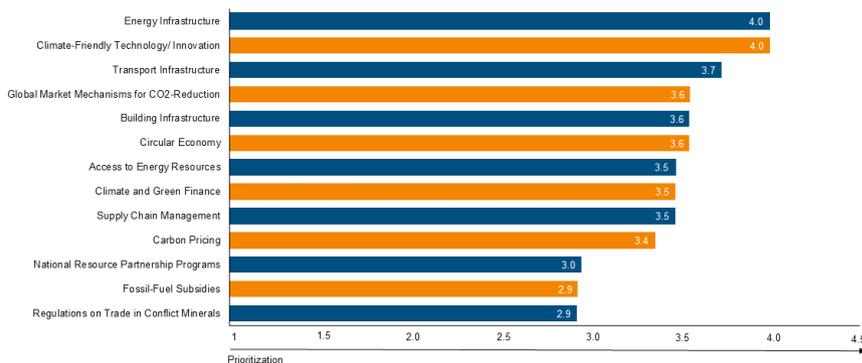
Trade and Investment

Trade and investment have been core topics of the B20 for many years. While “barriers to trade” was voted as the most important topic (4.0) regarding trade, this issue area is closely followed by “Digital Trade” (3.9) and “Preferential Trade Agreements” (3.8). Other priorities are closely linked to these issues, as for example the now highly politicized “Investment Protection and Dispute Settlement” mechanism (3.8) and overall “Investment Barriers” (3.7). Clearly, a coherent framework is needed to ensure and foster market access and to adapt rules to the changing landscape of trade and investment.



After the ratification of the historic Paris Agreement in 2015, the private sector now faces the challenge of adapting to and facilitating many of the changes necessary to reach these ambitious goals. In our survey, respondents attached particular importance to topics as “Energy Infrastructure” (4.0) as well as “Climate Friendly Technologies and Innovation” (4.0). Furthermore, respondents clearly identified market-based mechanisms to foster sustainability as priorities such as “Global Market Mechanisms for CO2-Reduction” (3.6), the “Circular Economy” (3.6), “Climate and Green Financing” (3.5) and “Carbon Pricing” (3.4).

Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency Energy Infrastructure, Climate-Friendly Technology and Transport Infrastructure are the Top Topics



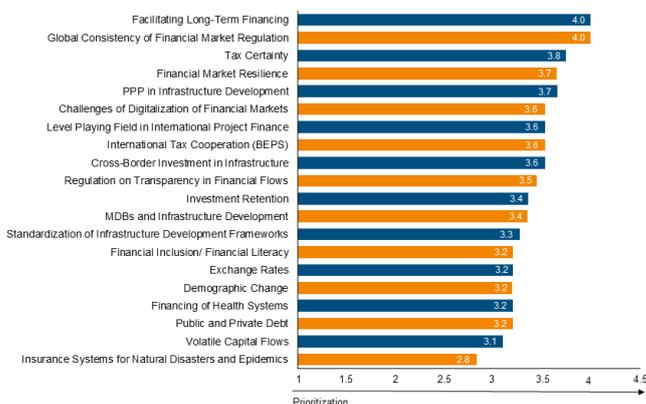
Source: Survey Monkey*, September 2016.
*Result of survey among international business associations, former B20 taskforce members, and committees of BDI, BDA & DHK on potential topics for B20 Germany. Answers of business representatives have been weighted by a factor of 10.



Financing Growth and Infrastructure

“Financing Growth and Infrastructure” have stood at the core of the G20 and B20 since their respective creations. Nonetheless, a lot remains to be done concerning both topics. Respondents to the survey identified “Facilitating Long-Term Financing” (4.0) and “Global Consistency of Financial Market Regulation” (4.0), as well as “Tax Certainty” (3.8) as top priorities for this year’s B20.

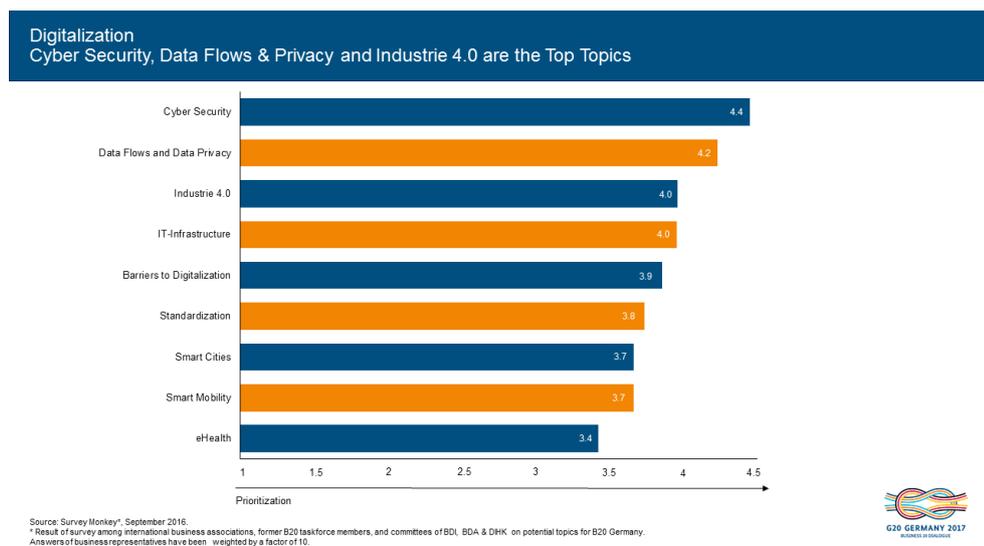
Financing Growth & Infrastructure Long-Term Financing, Regulatory Consistency and Tax Certainty are the Top Topics



Source: Survey Monkey*, September 2016.
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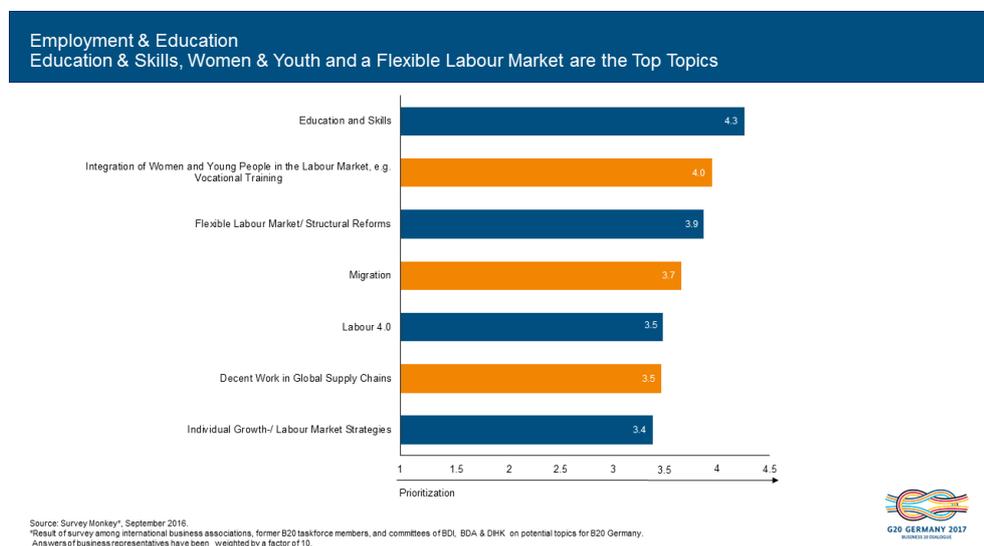


When it comes to the “fourth industrial revolution”, new challenges associated with transnational data flows and digital goods have to be addressed, as for example the issue of “Cyber Security” (4.4) and “Data Flows and Data Privacy” (4.2). Both issues have been identified as top priorities by the respondents of our survey. Moreover, to fully realize the potential of digitalization, businesses see the need to address questions related to the “IT-Infrastructure” (4.0), “Barriers to Digitalization” (3.9), and “Standardization” (3.8).



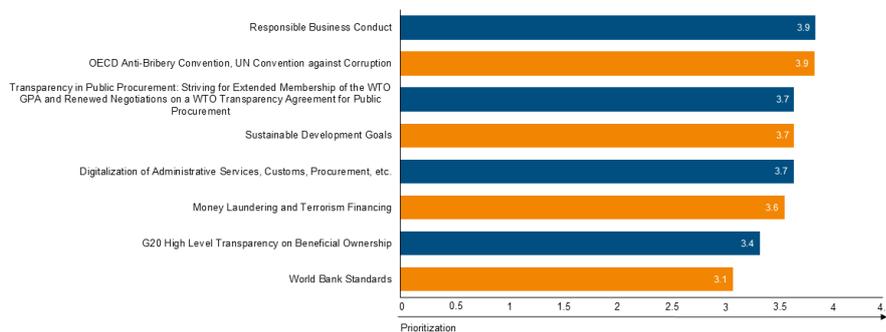
Employment & Education

The results of the survey on “Employment & Education” reveal the steps necessary to spur growth in the long-term and remain competitive, while ensuring a level playing field for all. “Education and Skills” (4.3) was named as most important topic by respondents, followed by a stronger inclusion of “Women and Young People in the Labor Market”, with a focus on “Vocational Training” (4.0). Moreover, “Flexible Labor Market” (3.9) and “Decent Work in Global Supply Chains” (3.5) are also clear priorities according to respondents of our survey.



Businesses have realized their social responsibility for a long time. However, the survey results in this category highlight the important work that remains to be done, both in the realm of “Responsible Business Conduct” (3.9) and important benchmarks, such as the UN “Sustainable Development Goals” (3.7) and the “World Bank Standards” (3.1). Additionally, the fight against corruption to reduce the negative impact on the business environment and governance structures has been highlighted, with for example the “OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, UN Convention against Corruption” (3.9) as one of the second-highest priority.

Responsible Business Conduct & Anti-Corruption Responsible Business Conduct, International Conventions and Sustainable Development Goals are the Top Topics



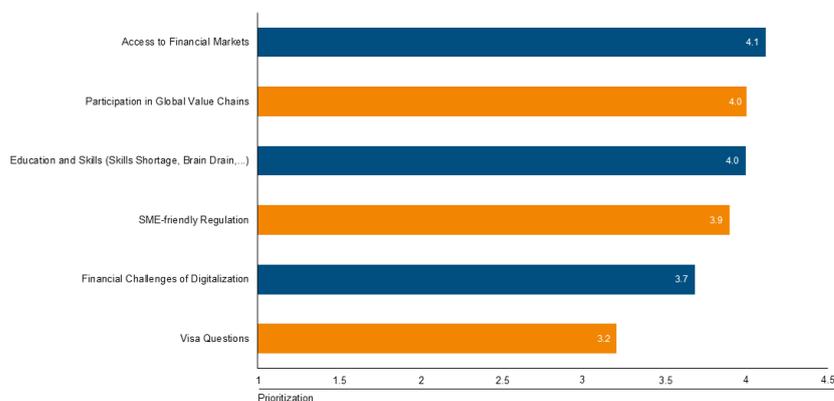
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Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for the majority of economic activity within G20 countries. Consequently, it is especially important to address structural barriers for this dynamic group of actors. Thus, respondents highlighted the need to address the “Access to Financial Markets” (4.1) for SMEs and their “Participation in Global Value Chains” (4.0) as clear priorities.

SMEs Financing, Integration of Global Value Chains and Education are the Top Topics



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