



**MED
Confederation**
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Scaling Up Financial Inclusion of MSMEs for a Sustainable Recovery in the Mediterranean Prospects and Challenges

10 December 2021

10h30 – 12h00 (CET)

Zoom online Platform

Introduction

The MED Confederation, the alliance of Euro-Mediterranean institutions and organisations promoting socioeconomic cooperation in the Mediterranean region, has been encouraging research and dialogue in order to promote awareness, best practices, and innovative initiatives to address the issue of financial inclusion as one of the main pillars of the development agenda in the Mediterranean region. Following two previous webinars dedicated respectively to the impact of the COVID-19 on financial inclusion and youth financial inclusion in the Mediterranean, the alliance is organising a third edition entitled **“Scaling Up Financial Inclusion of MSMEs for a Sustainable Recovery in the Mediterranean: Prospects and Challenges.”**

This event will provide a space for dialogue where experts and practitioners from institutions and organisations across the Mediterranean region and beyond will debate the prospects and challenges for enhancing the financial inclusion of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) as the **fundamental condition to spur the post-COVID-19 recovery in the Mediterranean region**. Acknowledging the key role that MSMEs play as the backbone of the Mediterranean economies, the webinar will discuss the **key measures and initiatives that aim at improving access to finance for small businesses**. The final objective of the event is to draw a set of policy recommendations based on lessons learnt and successful experiences, that can contribute to enlighten policy-making processes in the post-COVID-19 context.

- What are the specific barriers to financial inclusion of youth in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries? How has the COVID-19 crisis exacerbated financial exclusion for youth in the region?

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- How can enhanced access to finance can contribute to an inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery in the region?
- To which extent the emergence of fintech services can be considered as a game changer for MSMEs' access to finance in the region? How can they be the key drivers of to close the MSME's finance gap in the Mediterranean region?
- How to make sustainable finance accessible and affordable to encourage small entrepreneurs to invest and innovate in green markets and solutions addressing environmental and sustainability challenge? What are the main challenges related to green finance in the region?
- What can be the contribution of credit guarantee schemes and microfinance institutions to promote MSMEs' access to finance?

PROGRAMME

10.30

Welcoming remarks

Chris de Noose, President, MED Confederation. Managing Director, World Savings and Retail Banking Institute and the European Savings and Retail Banking Group (WSBI-ESBG)

10.35

Panel (45 min)

Hicham Zanati Serghini, Director General, Société nationale de garantie et de financement de l'entreprise (SNGFE) – Morocco

Nejia Gharbi, Acting Director General, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC - Tunisia). Vice-President, MED Confederation

Nadine Chehade, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)

Jessica Alfaro, Financial Sector Specialist, SME Finance Forum, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Moderated by

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

11.20

Roundtable and open discussion (40 min)