



MED MSMEs

Policies for inclusive growth

THIS PROGRAMME IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



**INFORMED
DIALOGUE**

**POLICY
REFORM**

**IMPACTFUL
PROJECTS**

**INCLUSIVE
GROWTH**

**FROM POLICIES
TO IMPACT**





Serving the objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in the EU Southern Neighbourhood, the European Union-funded MED MSMEs Programme (2018 – 2022) builds on a national participatory approach, international best practices and regional initiatives to foster the formulation and implementation of integrated policies and instruments supporting MSMEs development through internationalisation and access to finance.

The MED MSMEs Programme creates knowledge, convenes stakeholders and supports dialogue at regional level to inspire policies and regulatory reforms fostering MSME internationalisation and facilitating access to finance.

MSMES AT THE CENTER OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SMALL BUSINESS ACT IN BRIEF

The Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) is an overarching framework for the EU policy on small and medium-sized enterprises. It aims to improve the approach to entrepreneurship in Europe, simplify the regulatory and policy environment for SMEs, and remove the remaining barriers to their development. It translates into the SME Policy Index which guides policy making through a set of monitoring indicators.

The EU-funded MED MSMEs Programme is seeking to place MSMEs at the centre of sustainable growth in Europe's Southern Neighbourhood region.

The Programme contributes to improve the MSMEs business environment thanks to knowledge-based South-South and South-North dialogue informing the elaboration of policy responses that are more adapted to the needs of MSMEs and their support ecosystems.

The Programme is implemented with partner countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine¹, Syria² and Tunisia, in close collaboration with the network of national Small Business Act (SBA) Coordinators who are country focal points. The SBA Coordinators, along with other national public and private sector representatives compose the national working groups.

ARTICULATED AROUND 5 RESULTS

The MED MSMEs Programme fosters the policy dialogue around the following five result areas:



MSMEs as driver of inclusive and sustainable growth in a globalized economy: A better adaptation of MSME development policies and regulations to the needs of micro, small and medium sized businesses

1. This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.
2. Cooperation with Syria is temporarily suspended until further notice from the European Commission.



Enhancing the MSMEs institutional environment: The promotion of the administrative simplification and regulatory impact analysis as an element of MSME policy making.



MSMEs Access to Finance through alternative financial tools and digitalisation: An adaptation of finance policies and instruments, notably concerning alternative financial mechanisms, to the MSME needs and constraints.



Regional Platform: An increased awareness of MSMEs financial instruments and tools available to relevant representatives and stakeholders, through a regional platform which enhances South-South dialogue.



Communication & Visibility: On EU regional initiatives, including the EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion (EUIFI), which consists of five complementary regional facilities, with different lead financiers that represent a comprehensive package addressing different aspects and tools for MSME finance.

HOW WE DO IT

The MED MSMEs Programme implementation is driven by a set of 5 principles:



Mobilizing the expertise and disseminates the know-how required to elaborate policies that translate into impact (“From policies to impact”).



Prioritizing activities that can leverage the benefit of a regional approach to increase impact at national level by capitalizing on existing initiatives and programmes, in particular those supported by the EU.



Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches by capitalizing on national working groups as a proposition pool and sounding board at the national level.



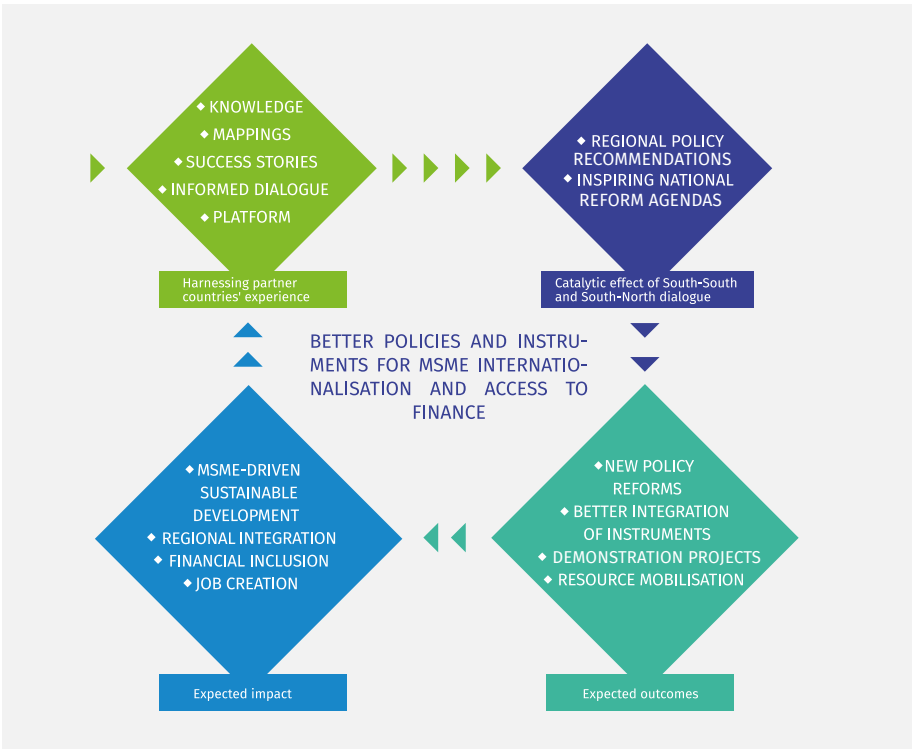
Strengthening the capacity of the SBA coordinators to facilitate the articulation of the regional and national levels and coordinate stakeholders.








Integrating systematically the gender dimension in the supported activities.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The Programme methodology focuses on two vertical Small Business Act dimensions, namely “MSME internationalisation” and “access to finance”, while “women entrepreneurship” and the “institutional and regulatory framework” are mainstreamed in a cross-cutting way.



MED MSMEs PROGRAMME INTERVENTION STRATEGY

-  Highlights the value added of the regional approach
-  Supports South-South and North-South dialogue to inspire national policy reform agendas
-  Prepares the ground for undertaking impactful projects at national level by leveraging the regional approach
-  Fosters the exchange of good practices and tools
-  Articulates cross-cutting and vertical dimensions in close coordination with other regional and bilateral programmes

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