

“Improving Access to Finance for MSMEs in Egypt”
Cairo, 26 September 2016
Sofitel Hotel Cairo

1. Introduction :

Egypt has established overall policies as well as a number of financial institutions and instruments to enhance and more fully support the growth of its MSME fabric. The final objective of these policies is to have Egyptian MSMEs operating within a business environment conducive to innovation, competitiveness and growth on the domestic and international markets, but it also focuses on facilitating access to finance, the recent initiatives of the Central Bank of Egypt constituting a significant qualitative and quantitative leap towards financial inclusion.

Financial Instruments could be further supported and diversified in view of fostering economic development and employment through financial inclusion. The recent initiatives could be a game changer and call the representatives of the demand and supply sides to deploy convergent efforts to harness the full benefits of the new prevailing environment.

2. Context

The “Enhancement of the Business Environment in the Southern Mediterranean” project (henceforth called the EBESM project) is a partnership between the European Union (EU) and the South European Neighbourhood (ENP-South) region composed of ten countries (MED countries). It contributes to addressing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development at the macro level and aims to foster the development of a favourable business environment in line with EU best practices, i.e. the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA).

During its second year of operation, in 2016, the EBESM project launched the Access to Finance for MSME Activity. The overall objectives of this Activity is to raise awareness and to share good practices among policy makers, practitioners, representatives of the private sector in the MED countries about existing public policies, mechanisms and instruments supporting MSMEs financial needs for development.

The EBESM project’s goal is to contribute to unlock Access to Finance for MSME in the MED region as current studies clearly indicate that access to finance remains insufficient compared to overall MSMEs needs.

The Project, in collaboration with its MED partners, carried out a mapping study to identify existing public programmes, operational financing mechanisms and instruments supporting the development of MSMEs at country level, as well as assessed public policies, identified best practices at country level and provided policy recommendations.

The primary results and conclusions of the reports are presented and discussed during a National one-day workshops in order to craft action plans.

3. National Seminar Objectives

- Inform national stakeholders of available financing schemes, programmes and instruments;
- Share good practices (regional, European and international) on public policies, mechanisms and instruments on key topics relevant or of particular interest for Egypt
- Discuss policy recommendations at national level and formulate country-specific actionable recommendations to sustainably unlock financing opportunities for MSMEs by taking the best advantage of the current reforms and new instruments.

Seminar Agenda

09h00-09h30	Registration, Coffee, Tea
09h30-09h45	<p>Welcoming and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Amr Taha, Industrial Modernisation Centre (IMC) - Ms RiikkaTorppa, EU Delegation to Egypt - Ms Marie-Jo Char, EBESM/GIZ
09h45-10h15	<p>Session 1: Presenting the findings of the regional mapping study and of the focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Christophe Malherbe, EBESM/GIZ - Mr Berndt Balkenhol, EBESM/GIZ - Ms Iman Kamel, EBESM/GIZ
10h15-11h05	<p>Session 2: Practices in MSMEs Financing- How to maximize the benefits of the recent breakthrough initiatives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Nermine El Tahri, Central Bank of Egypt - Mr Walid Ismail, National Bank of Egypt - Ms Hanaa El Hellaly , Amwal Financial Investments - Mr Alain Santi, EBESM/GIZ <p>Moderator: Mr Hany Tawfik, The Egyptian Private Equity Association Followed by Q&A session</p>
11h05-11h30	Coffee break
11h30-12h30	<p>Session 3: The contribution of the non-banking financial instruments to unlock the Access to Finance for MSMEs in Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Heba El Serafy, Nilex - Dr Abdel-Monem Omran, Beltone Financial - Ms Ola Gadallah, Export Credit Guarantee Co. of Egypt - Dr Shahinaz Rachad , Egyptian Financial Services Authority <p>Moderator: Dr Hany Sarie El Din, Sarie-Eldin & Partners Followed by Q & A session</p>
12h30 -13h45	<p>Session 4: The way forward - the main issues identified and the suggested action plan (interactive session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Ghada El Gohary, Industrial Modernisation Centre - Mr Bernd Balkenhol, EBESM/GIZ <p>Moderators: Mr Christophe Malherbe and Mr Alain Santi, EBESM/GIZ</p>

Implementing Agencies

13h45-14h15	<p>Session 5: Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of priority actions to implement in the short run to help unlock A2F for MSMEs and to agree about a calendar for implementation. - Dr Amr Taha and Ms Marie-Jo Char
14h15-16h00	<p>Lunch Break and Networking</p>