

Your Monthly Tabadool

Access of SMEs to Financing

Global Findex 2021 assesses the state of financial inclusion in the world: progress but...

The recent publication of the [Global Findex 2021 database](#) observes as a positive trend that worldwide account ownership has increased from 51% in 2011 to 76% in 2021. Another observation: in developing economies, the gender gap in current account ownership has fallen to 6 percentage points in 2021, from 9 percentage points in recent years: 74% of men have a current account, compared to 68% of women. However, in the MENA region, this gap is 13 percentage points, three times larger than the global average.

Fintech Innovation Challenge: until September 15

[Women's Word Banking](#) is organizing the "Fintech Innovation Challenge 2023", a global competition that rewards fintech pioneers in innovative financial solutions that help close the gender gap in access to digital financial services.

The four selected fintechs will be invited to present their solutions at the Making Finance Work for Women Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on February 16, 2023. For more information and to apply (until September 15, 2022): [HERE](#)

Guarantee and Digitization of SMEs: the case of "France Num"

With a guarantee cost of 0.7% of the loan amount, [the scheme](#), set up by "France Num" (a government initiative for the digital transformation of SMEs), the European Investment Fund and Bpifrance, supports projects carried out by SMEs that make it possible to improve at least one of the following functions: internal processes, supply chain management, product or service innovation, customer relations, commercial development, innovative business models, security, digital skills and training. Percentage guaranteed: up to 80% of the loan limited to EUR50,000.

Internationalization of SMEs

How DG GROW supports the international development of SMEs

[The DG GROW \(European Commission\) webpage](#) on the internationalization of EU SMEs is worth knowing as an inspiring practice. It is structured under major headings such as Assistance tools, Networking (including the [Enterprise Europe Network](#)), Information on access to the market all together with a [guide](#) which defines internationalization as "all activities that put SMEs into a meaningful business relationship with a foreign partner: exports, imports, foreign direct investment (FDI - relocation or outsourcing), international subcontracting and international technical cooperation."

Asean Access: facilitating the export process

[Asean Access](#) is Southeast Asia's official trade information portal. Thanks to its many functionalities, the tool enables exporting SMEs in the region to overcome the challenges of internationalization: country profiles, sector sheets, trade regulations, available aid, online training (with [ASEAN SME Academy](#) and [ITC SME Trade Academy](#)). The portal also includes a virtual platform "MATCHMAKING" where SMEs can find foreign partners and present their offers and demands for products and technologies.

Internationalization of Indian SMEs: Motivations & Challenges

[The internationalization of Indian SMEs](#) is analyzed by smefutures.com in terms of motivations (increase sales, improve processes, reduce labor costs, diversify production) and challenges (reliable data on foreign markets, awareness of potential customers, knowledge of procedures). The article discusses the role of government initiatives that have helped SMEs to internationalize, including [Digital India](#). The link has also been established between digitalisation, more integrated supply chains and a fluid relationship with suppliers and partners.

