

## Your Monthly Tabadool

### **MED MSMEs Training series: Enhancing the impact of Non-Banking Financial Institutions**

The MED MSMEs Programme organizes three training sessions on March 7, 14 and 21, 2023 aimed at sharing the Programme's guidelines for enhancing the impact of Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs) by 1) Leveraging digital solutions to offer innovative services, reduce cost of operations and better manage risks, 2) Harnessing the potential of women-led enterprises to boost portfolio growth; and 3) Accessing concessional funding to reduce the cost of capital. Access the leaflet and register [HERE](#).

### **Impact of SMEs support policies and programmes: the OECD evaluation framework**

The starting point of this [recent OECD publication](#) is that policies and programmes in favor of SMEs and entrepreneurship suffer from a lack of systematic and reliable impact evaluations. To remedy this, the document draws up a state of the art of methods and practices in this area, illustrated by numerous examples from 28 OECD member countries. The report also explores the role of evaluation in guiding government responses to major economic shocks. Among the recommendations issued by the OECD, we note in particular the following: the establishment of interinstitutional coordination processes between ministries and government agencies for the monitoring and evaluation of SMEs and entrepreneurship policies.

### **Knowing and following the latest news on SMEs in the European Union**

The [EUbusiness](#) website defines itself as the "Europe's leading independent online business information service about the European Union". Founded in 1997, it provides news and information concerning changes in the business environment, legislation, economic data, opportunities in the EU and networking possibilities for companies...Among the various subjects covered, [the issue of SMEs](#) is given particular attention with tools and knowledge pieces that can be sources of inspiration (SME guides, EU legislation on enterprises, policies and financial instruments to support SMEs).

### **When e-commerce drives growth: the example of the Italian economy**

Between 2016 and 2020, the e-commerce sector contributed 40.6% to the growth of the total turnover of Italian economic activities, with a clear leverage effect since €100 invested in the sector generates €148 in the rest of the economy... The data revealed by the [study of Netcomm](#), an Italian digital commerce consortium, testifies to the vitality of e-commerce and its multiplier effect on the productive system. To consolidate these results, the study recommends that companies invest in digital marketing in both B2B and B2C. It is also recommended to focus public action in support of sustained growth of the sector on the

development of technological investment, upgrading skills and strengthening digital exports (especially encouraging agreements with major international marketplaces and adoption of simplified and accelerated customs procedures).

### **A toolkit for paperless cross-border trade : a billion trees at stake**

The transition to the digital of international trade involves the mobilization of technical tools (digital identity, electronic payment, communication protocols, data security, etc.) and legal tools (legal recognition of trust services and e-transactions and documents, data governance rules, Liability allocation and dispute management, etc.).

This is to raise awareness on these tools that the World Trade Organization (WTO) published in 2022, jointly with the United Nations, the "[Cross-border Paperless Trade Toolkit](#)". What is at stake is critical, also in terms of sustainability, as: "At the global level, CO2 emissions saved annually through paperless trade implementation average 36 million tons, equivalent to planting over a billion trees."

### **Corporate due diligence: towards a legal tool for binding SER?**

So far, the Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) of companies is essentially a matter of voluntary action without any bidding character that would make enterprises accountable for their commitments.

Based on this observation, the [Youmatter's article](#) considers the corporate due diligence as an opportunity and a means of giving SER a normative framework by obliging companies to comply with social and environmental standards.

Reference is made to the [proposal for a European directive](#) on the subject.

Is a regulatory approach to corporate responsibility emerging? This is the hopeful question that is ultimately formulated.

### **Establishing an SME panel to facilitate access to public procurement: an inspiring model of ToR**

Helping more SMEs to win public sector contracts: The UK's experience in this area is supported by the establishment of a consultative body, a multi-sector [SME panel](#), in which business leaders work with the relevant administration to advise the government on ways to strengthen SMEs' access to public procurement.

Data are lacking to scientifically assess the actual impact of this practice. However, the fact that the SME panel, initially created in 2011, was renewed in 2020, suggests that convincing results have been achieved. In any case, the exact composition of the panel and the precise mandate of its members are detailed, as an inspiring model, in these [terms of reference](#).

