

Meet the Challenge - Join the EFN***Bridge the Equity Gap******Providing Linkages******Strengthening
Networks******Engaging Private
Sector******Training
Entrepreneurs******Liaising with
Regulators******Supporting
Women
Entrepreneurship******Promoting Dialogue
between
Entrepreneurs,
Financial
Institutions, and
Policymakers******Guiding Young
Entrepreneurs******Linking Innovative Entrepreneurs with Diverse Capital and Productive Investment***

The **MENA-OECD Enterprise Financing Network** © aims to improve the conditions for financing entrepreneurship by:

- *creating a platform to connect entrepreneurs, financiers, research bodies and policymakers;*
- *providing ways for private sector participants to effectively participate in key investment policy reforms relevant to financing entrepreneurship;*
- *encouraging the development of innovative institutions and instruments to bridge the equity finance gap in the region.*

The Network operates within the MENA-OECD Investment Programme as a forum for exchange of good practice between MENA and OECD business and government representatives. The Network was launched in Bahrain in May 2006 at the MENA Investment Center, where representatives from key financing, media, and entrepreneurship associations and organisations were present. It will operate as a not for profit organisation.

Who is part of the Network?

Private equity and venture capital firms, business angels, business and technology institutes and education programmes, business incubators, entrepreneurs, policy makers, and investment promotion agencies from 15 MENA and OECD member countries form the network.

The MENA Countries included in the network are Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Palestine National Authority, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen.

Key Objectives of the Network

- Strengthen the network between private stakeholders and public regulators
- Mobilise capital for the creation and expansion of enterprises
- Identify key risk factors for Private Equity/Venture Capital firms and innovative entrepreneurs
- Support cluster development, highlighting the role of science and technology centers
- Shape the regulatory framework for the financing industry and encourage capital markets development
- Bring together financiers and entrepreneurs to identify business opportunities
- Foster effective use of financing instruments by women entrepreneurs.

*Providing Linkages
For Growth*

*Strengthening
Networks*

*Engaging Private
Sector*

*Training
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*Liaising with
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*Promoting Dialogue
between
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and Policymakers*

*Guiding Young
Entrepreneurs*

Highlights of Activities of the Network:

Bridging the Equity Gap in the MENA region

- Develop solutions for overcoming regulatory problems experienced by foreign and domestic PE/VC investors in each MENA country and promote clustering policies for innovation
- Develop tools for risk management
- Develop recommendations on key issues of financial regulation and the development of equity finance and venture capital operations, strengthen capacity of new financial institutions
- Support educational programmes on enterprise finance through networks and training forums
- Support training programmes, create networks and provide infrastructure for MENA Business Angels
- Support Business Plan Training and Pitch Coaching for "Investor Ready" entrepreneurs and enhance training guidelines for private equity "Fund of Fund Managers"
- Distribute Entrepreneurship Finance Award on an annual basis
- Organise Enterprise Financing/Technology development conferences in partnership with UNIDO, the World Summit on Innovation & Entrepreneurship and other organisations
- Create Linkages between domestic, regional, national, and international investors

Interested in becoming an EFN member?

Several categories of membership are available to individuals and companies interested in participating in the Network. Please contact us (see below) for further information on Annual Fees and Membership Benefits.

Membership Categories

Category 1 – Platinum Membership

Category 2 – Gold Membership

Category 3 – Silver Membership

Category 4 – Bronze Membership

Category 5 – Non Profit Organizations/Private Individuals

Sponsors

The sponsorship of special events, specific research projects, creation of a new business angels network, entrepreneurship financing facilities, will create business opportunities and enhance visibility.

Membership Benefits

In addition to accessing all EFN meetings and research produced by the Enterprise Financing Network, members are entitled to the following benefits:

- Invitations to attend the annual meetings of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme as well as thematic workshops
- Support to entrepreneurs by linking them with financing firms
- New opportunities discovered through specific business introductions
- Access to policy makers at regional and national levels
- Exposure through the MENA-OECD website www.oecd.org/mena/investment, newsletters and other communication tools

To become a member of the MENA-OECD Enterprise Financing Network or for any other related inquiries, please contact us at mena.investment@oecd.org