



## THURSDAY 1 JULY – FINANCE

14:00 – 16:00  
CEST

[Register here](#)

### MOBILISING SME FINANCE FOR A RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

Joint event with the Council of Europe Development Bank



#### Moderated by

Céline Kauffmann, Head of Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

**DESCRIPTION** SMEs were hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis, often relying on government support to survive the initial shock, prolonged restrictions and a drop in demand for their products and services. This has left many small businesses with a high debt burden. The degree to which this will lead to high levels of insolvencies in the coming months is still uncertain and a cause for concern.

As businesses and governments look to the recovery, SMEs will be front and centre in providing employment as well as innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges, such as the climate crisis, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Sustained access to a diverse range of financing instruments will be crucial to continued contributions by SMEs and entrepreneurs to sustainable and inclusive growth.

This webinar, organised by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), will bring together experts, policy makers, financial institutions and SME representatives to discuss some of the key issues around SME financing today. Questions to be addressed include:

- What impact has the crisis had on SME access to finance, and are the effects likely to be lasting?
- What role have government policy responses played in ensuring the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs, and how can these be adapted to the recovery phase?
- What role can local institutions play in supporting SME finance for recovery?
- How can SME finance be mobilised to address pressing challenges, such as the green and digital transitions, and what is the role of financial institutions in this regard?
- What can governments do to avoid an insolvency crisis among SMEs and avoid high SME debt levels becoming a drag on recovery and future investments?
- What is needed to ensure that entrepreneurs that have gone out of business can rebound through second-chance entrepreneurship?

**OPENING REMARKS** 14h00- 15h05 Monica Scatasta, Director of the Technical Assessment and Monitoring Directorate, CEB

**PANEL 1** 14h15-15h05 Mobilising SME finance for recovery

Moderated by Isabelle Brun, Head of Strategic Development and Special Topics at CEB

- Miriam Koreen, Senior Counsellor on SMEs, Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
- Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Professor
- Rodney Boyd, Senior Manager – Policy, British Business Bank, UK
- Gerhard Huemer, Chief Economist, SMEunited



PANEL 2

15h05-15h55

Understanding and addressing the risks of SME over-indebtedness and insolvency

Moderator by Stephan Raes, Policy Analyst, Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

- Federico J. Diez, Economist, Structural Reforms Unit, IMF Research Department
- Felix Haas Vincon, Head of Unit, European Association of Guarantee Institutions - AECM
- Rudy Aernoudt, Senior Economist at the European Commission and Professor in Corporate Finance at the Universities of Ghent and Nancy
- Martin Godemann, Head of Group Funding, ProCredit Holding

CLOSING REMARKS

Céline Kauffmann, Head of Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

CONTACT

[Miriam.Koreen@oecd.org](mailto:Miriam.Koreen@oecd.org) / [Stephan.Raes@oecd.org](mailto:Stephan.Raes@oecd.org)

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