

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) invites you to the “**Digital for SMEs**” (D4SME) knowledge event on:

ACCESS TO DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE & CLOUD COMPUTING FOR SMEs

3 October 2023, 14.00-16.00 CEST (Paris time), Remote participation

[REGISTER HERE](#)

AGENDA

14:00-14:05 Introductory remarks

- **Lucia Cusmano**, Acting Head of SMEs and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD

14:05 – 14:35 Panel 1 on Access to digital infrastructure

- **Moderated by Ms Lucia Cusmano**

Panellists:

- **Andrea Dobra**, Global Policy & Public Affairs, Vodafone Group
- **Andrew Stirling**, Managing Director, Stirling Potatoes Ltd (*Scottish SME, Enterprise Scotland*)
- **Jorge Bejarano**, CEO, Tech & Law (*Colombian SME, Bogota Chamber of Commerce*)
- **Alexia Gonzalez Fanfalone**, Economist/Telecommunication Policy Analyst, OECD

14:35 – 14:55 Q&A with audience

14:55 – 15:05 Coffee Break

15:05 – 15:35 Panel 2 on Cloud Computing for SMEs

- **Moderated by Mr Marco Bianchini**, Economist and Coordinator of the D4SME Global Initiative, OECD

Panellists:

- **Jeremy Rollison**, Senior Director, Head of EU Policy, Microsoft
- **Antonia Moreno Garcia**, Future and social adoption of technology, Ministry of Economy and Industry Chile
- **Lucia Katriňáková**, Portfolio Manager, League for Digital Boost Lead, SAPIE
- **Alistair Brisbane**, Global Head of Technology, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

15:35 – 15:55 Q&A with audience

15:55 – 16:00 Wrap-up

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Although more than 90% of SMEs in OECD economies have access to the internet, both through fixed and mobile connections, there remain businesses that are not connected or lack adequate connection speeds to effectively use most digital technologies. Adequate network access and download/upload speed is essential to fully exploit existing services over the Internet and to foster the diffusion of new ones, and cross-country digital infrastructure differences have an impact on SMEs' capabilities.

Emerging cloud-based solutions represent a case in point, since they require quality digital networks to transfer data. Cloud computing offers affordable and scalable solutions for storing and processing information, leading to reduced operation costs and increased productivity for SMEs. It allows SMEs to access extra processing power, storage capacity, and software based on their specific needs, without upfront investments in hardware or regular maintenance expenses. Higher cloud adoption rates are linked to lower ICT investment in equipment, as firms focus on software acquisition and digital connectivity. It also gives SMEs the ability to access more advanced software, as AI-based digital tools, while ensuring higher digital security standards.

Policymakers need to address these disparities in connectivity to bridge the digital divide and ensure SMEs have equal opportunities to leverage cloud computing and other transformative technologies. By providing SMEs with access to high-speed broadband and promoting robust digital security practices, policymakers can empower SMEs to fully embrace cloud computing, enhance their competitiveness, and drive innovation in the digital age. Additionally, offering tailored support and incentives for cloud adoption can further accelerate SMEs' digital transformation journey, enabling them to optimize their business processes and seize the opportunities presented by the digital economy.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

[D4SME](#) | [Contact](#) | [Partners](#)

Registered participants will receive the link to connect to the discussion.
Please check the time difference with your home country.



About us

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.