

Three Paths to Expanding Funding Options for MSMEs in Serbia: Learning from Regional Experience

29 October 2020 (Thursday) via **zoom**
14:00 – 16:00

This virtual meeting will explore three approaches for expanding institutional options for financing MSMEs using the experience of three countries in the region (Greece, Northern Macedonia and Albania). These options will be presented against the backdrop of characteristics of a comprehensive framework for financing MSMEs taking into account the current situation and the existing legal and institutional constraints that hinder the development of a wider institutional lending landscape.

The first part of the webinar will briefly describe the characteristics of a well-functioning funding system for MSMEs in a country, and will present the results of the field research of the investors and banks. This will help to identify the missing components of the framework in Serbia – both from the point of institutional structure as well as lending technologies.

The second part of the webinar will focus on presenting the feasible options to expand the institutional framework through appropriate regulation, legislation, and government policies using: (1) a regulatory sandbox approach, (2) a specialized microfinance law, and (3) a non-banking financial institutions law.

This meeting is a collaboration effort among the Microfinance Centre (MFC), Serbian Chamber of Commerce and UNDP. It is financed by the EU EaSI TA programme.

AGENDA

Part One: A Policy and Regulatory Framework for MSME Finance

- 14:00 Introduction of agenda and speakers
Piotr Korynski, MFC
- 14:05 Reflections on business environment in Serbia
Mihailo Vesović, Serbian Chamber of Commerce
- 14.10 Characteristics and Dimensions of a Framework for MSME Finance
Piotr Korynski, MFC
- 14:20 Characteristics of the Framework for MSME Finance in Serbia
Katarina Obradović, Ministry of Economy
- 14:30 Feedback from the UNDP and EU Green recovery study,
Milan Lakićević, UNDP Inovative finance specialist



- 14:40 Presentation of the Sustainable Business programme
Ivana Stančić, Smart kolektiv
- 14:50 Reflections on a favorable environment characteristics for microfinance:
example of France
Adrien Gizon, Directeur Adie International

Part Two: Options for Creating Alternative Financial Institutions for MSME Finance: Learning from the Regional Experience

- 15:00 Introduction to the part two of the webinar
Piotr Korynski, MFC
- 15:05 Experimenting with new types of financial institutions: using a regulatory
sandbox approach – the experience of the Central Bank of Northern Macedonia
*Goran Lazarevski, Alliance of Microfinance Organizations in Northern
Macedonia*
- 15:15 Legislating a new of form of a specialized financial institution: the case of
microfinance law in Greece
Neoklis Stamkos, KEPA/microSTARS, Greece
- 15:25 Using non-bank financial institutions: the experience of Albania in developing
alternative financing technologies for MSMEs
Brunilda Isaj, Albanian Microfinance Association
- 15:35 Using non-bank financial institutions: financial cooperatives
Goran Živkov, UNDP expert
- 15:45 Lessons learned from efforts to expand the Framework for MSME Finance in
the Region and application to the situation in Serbia
Discussion
- 15:55 Summary and closure
Piotr Korynski, MFC

