



OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability

1st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7 December 2022
OECD Conference Centre, Paris

Draft agenda

With the support of:



About the OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability

The OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability provides a forum for global collaboration, knowledge sharing and implementation of good practices among public and private financial institutions, policy makers and SME representatives to enhance the provision and uptake of SME sustainable finance for a successful climate transition. The Platform was launched at the margins of COP26 in November 2021 by the OECD, the British Business Bank, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and the Industrial Bank of Korea.

The Platform contributes to strengthening the evidence base and developing comparable indicators on SME sustainable finance. It seeks to operationalise sound sustainable finance approaches and instruments for SMEs, enhance dialogue with policy makers and provide high level guidance to governments. The Platform also offers opportunities for creating meaningful networks among banks, ESG intermediaries, Fintech companies, SME representatives and other actors in the sustainable finance ecosystem.

The Platform is hosted by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, a global reference in the area of SME and entrepreneurship data, policy analysis and dialogue.

About the Annual Conference

The first annual conference marks an important milestone for the Platform, which is gaining momentum. Discussions will focus on the sustainable finance landscape for SMEs against the current challenging economic and international backdrop. Sessions will discuss drivers and constraints for the provision and uptake of sustainable finance by SMEs, and explore the financial and non-financial support needed to foster SME investments in greening. Participants will also discuss the role different actors can play in strengthening the sustainable finance ecosystem. They will have an opportunity to discuss innovative approaches, policies and instruments to incentivise SMEs to undertake investments in sustainability. The Conference will provide the opportunity to draw attention to critical data and knowledge gaps, and the role for international collaboration.

The Conference will bring together an international audience composed of public and private financial institutions, policy makers, regulators, ESG intermediaries, actors that provide support to SMEs, SME representatives and other stakeholders.

Financing SMEs for Sustainability: First Annual Conference

7 December 2022 | OECD Conference Centre

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| 09:00 –09:30 | Registration & welcome coffee |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | High level Introductory remarks |
| Speakers | <p>Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, OECD</p> <p>Gemma Peck, Director Business Growth, UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Chair of Steering Committee of the OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability</p> <p>Statements from the founding members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Louis Taylor, CEO, British Business Bank• Isabelle Hudon, CEO, Business Development of Canada• Jong-won Yoon, Chairman and CEO, Industrial Bank of Korea |
| 10:00 – 11:15 | Session I: Financing SMEs for Sustainability: Drivers, Challenges and Policies |
| Key Questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why has the green transition become so urgent for SMEs in the current context?• Why is finance so critical for the SME green transition?• What is the state of play of SME sustainable finance? What are the drivers and challenges?• What role can policy play in strengthening sustainable finance for SMEs? |
| Chair | Shanika Amarasekara, Chief Impact Officer, British Business Bank |
| Keynote presentation | Launch of the OECD report “Financing SMEs for Sustainability: Drivers, Constraints and Policies”, Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities |
| Panel | <p>Martin Godel, Head of Division, Small and Medium Size Enterprise Policy, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland, and Chair of the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE)</p> <p>Astrid Bartels, Head of Unit, Access to Finance, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission</p> <p>Marisela Alvarenga de Jacoby, Chief, Financial Institutions Division, Inter-American Investment Corporation*</p> <p>Heather Buchanan, CEO and Co-Founder, Bankers for Net Zero, UK</p> <p>Hanni Rosenbaum, Executive Director, Business at OECD</p> |
| 11.15 - 11.45 | Coffee Break |

* to be confirmed

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| 11:45 – 13:00 | Session II: Strengthening SME demand for sustainable investments |
| Key Questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is driving SME demand for sustainable finance and investment? ▪ What are the key challenges that SMEs face in integrating environmental considerations into their operations? ▪ How can non-financial services and support help accelerate SMEs' green transition? |
| Chair | Sandra Odendahl, Senior VP and Head of Sustainability and Diversity, BDC |
| Panel | <p>Representative, Government of Ireland</p> <p>Pamela Jouven, Director, SME Climate Hub</p> <p>Peter Sweatman, Chief Executive, Climate Strategy & Partners</p> <p>Burçak İnel, Director of Financing Sustainable Growth, European Banking Federation</p> <p>Gerhard Huemer, Economic Policy Director, SMEunited</p> |
| 13:00 – 13:15 | Group Photo |
| 13:15 – 14:30 | Lunch Break |
| 14:30-15:45 | Session III: Chief Economists' roundtable: The role of PFIs in driving SME sustainable finance |
| Key Questions | <p>PFI Chief Economists Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are PFIs and the financial sector more broadly integrating environmental considerations into their SME operations? • Which instruments are best suited to the needs of SMEs? • What strategies are PFIs implementing to address sustainability issues and accompany their SME clients? |
| Chair | Miriam Koreen, Senior Counsellor on SMEs, Head of the SME and Entrepreneurship Financing Unit, OECD CFE |
| Panel | <p>Matt Adey, Chief Economist, British Business Bank</p> <p>Pierre Cléroux, Chief Economist, Business Development Bank of Canada</p> <p>Philippe Mutricy, Director of Evaluation, Studies and Prospective, Bpifrance</p> <p>Blanca Navarro, Strategy Director and Chief Economist, Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO)*</p> <p>Joseph Nnanna, Chief Economist, Development Bank of Nigeria *</p> |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | Coffee Break |

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| 16:15-17:30 | Session IV: Innovative approaches to drive SMEs' green transition |
| Key Questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How are Fintech companies supporting SMEs in integrating environmental considerations into their operations? ▪ How can traditional instruments be adapted to support SMEs' green investments? ▪ How are companies supporting SMEs in obtaining sustainable finance through their supply chains? |
| Chair | Representative, Republic of Korea Government |
| Panel | <p>Katrin Sturm, Secretary General, European Association of Guarantee Institutions (AECM)</p> <p>Veronika Bienert, CEO, Siemens Financial Services</p> <p>Emma Kisby, CEO UK/EU, CoGo</p> |
| 17:30 – 17:45 | Wrap-up and concluding remarks by the Chair |
| Speakers | <p>Gemma Peck, Director Business Growth, UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Chair of Steering Committee of the OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability</p> <p>Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities</p> |
| 17:45 – 19:30 | Reception at the OECD Château |