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

Fintech for SMEs: Unlocking Funds and Managing Financial Operations in the Digital Age

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13 February 2024 15:30 – 17:30 CET (Paris time) Remote participation

D4SME IMAGE (add here)

AGENDA

15:30-15:40 Introductory remarks

- **Deputy Minister Valentino Valentini**, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, D4SME Chair (*video*)

15:40 – 16:15 Panel 1 on *Navigating Fintech: SMEs at the Crossroads of Innovation*

- **Moderated by Ms Lucia Cusmano**, Acting Head of the SMEs and Entrepreneurship Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

Panellists:

- **Ms Iota Nassr**, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- **Prof Pinar Ozcan**, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Said Business School, University of Oxford
- **Mr Paul Disselkoen**, Senior Associate, Government Relations Government Relations, Paypal
- **Mr Ronal Kleverlaan**, Chairman, Independent Foundation for Alternative SME Financiers (Netherlands)
- **Mr Lorenzo Rossi**, Co-Founder, FlowPay (*Italian SME*)

16:15 – 16:35 Q&A with audience

16:35 – 16:40 Coffee Break

16:40 – 17:10 Panel 2 on *Managing Money in the Digital Age: SMEs and Fintech*

- **Moderated by Marco Bianchini**, Economist and Coordinator of the D4SME Global Initiative, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, CFE, OECD

Panellists:

- **Mr Erik Rettig**, Head of Small Business Policy & Regulatory Affairs, Intuit
- **Mr Qamar Saleem**, CEO, SME Finance Forum
- **Professor Laura Grassi**, Head of Fintech & Insurtech Observatory, Politecnico di Milano
- **Ms Anastasia Chalkidou** CFO co-Founder, Quantum BITS (*Greek SME*)

17:10 – 17:25 Q&A with audience

17:25 – 17:30 Wrap-up

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Join us as we delve into how digital tools and Fintech innovations can strengthen SMEs' financial inclusion. Digital solutions can facilitate management of online payments, ease credit assessment and help address SMEs' under-collateralization by leveraging real time cash-flow data, enable the development of tailored financial products to SMEs, and enhance the delivery by government agencies and public financial institutions of targeted financing programmes for SMEs. Moreover, the integration of open banking practices can improve SMEs' access to financial services, enabling more personalized banking experiences and streamlined financial operations.

In Panel 1, experts from government, industry, and academia will examine the challenges faced by SMEs in leveraging latest fintech solutions, including information gaps, high transaction costs, and limited financial knowledge. The discussion will also spotlight policy initiatives that aim to bring fintech closer to SMEs, including regulatory measures, platforms linking SMEs with Fintech companies, and private sector initiatives promoting digital financial literacy.

In Panel 2, experts will unravel the dynamic landscape of technology-enabled financial management for SMEs. The discussion will focus on how digital tools enable SMEs to better manage their cash flows, business finances, payroll processes, and all aspects related to financial operations. The Panel will also discuss the role of the "ecosystem" of financial advisers, consultants, and technology providers supporting SMEs in both their financial management and digital transition.

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

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.

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