

How can you benefit from the EUIFI?

As a micro, small or medium sized enterprise, or as an innovative start-up, you can benefit from funding under the more than 1.5 billion euros expected to be mobilised by the EUIFI. Whether you are looking for a loan, grant, financing or support, there is a solution to meet your needs.

The EUIFI general qualification criterion is that you should be engaged in an income generating activity, and to employ fewer than 10 employees (micro), less than 50 employees (small), or less than 250 employees (medium). If you are a MSME enterprise and wish to explore your eligibility, your first step is to contact one of our partner institutions in your country, including: microfinance and financial institutions; commercial banks; leasing and factoring companies; and financial services providers.

Take a look at how EU funding has boosted small businesses across the region

Tunisia

Dar Ben Gacem was financially helped to restore his 17th century family home guesthouse in the heart of the Tunis Medina, and restructure the company's marketing strategy. This included launching a new bilingual interactive website, increasing his turnover by 23% and creating more shared economy opportunities with handcrafts operating around the site. - *EUIFI, Small Business Support (SBS)*

Jordan

Taher al Mahshi, owner of a furniture business, was supported to increase his capital and respond to current and future demand. When Taher met with the staff at FINCA Jordan, they tailored a solution to his needs. Taher received a loan of \$4 200 so that he could procure the raw material urgently needed, and hire another employee. -*EUIFI, SANAD fund.*



Furniture business owner in Jordan received a loan from KfW

The 5 complementary programmes of the EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion

Facility	EFIs Lead Financier
SANAD Micro-financing and Micro-enterprises Microfinance through local financial institutions and capacity building	KfW www.sanad.lu www.kfw.de
Small Business Support (SBS) Advisory services to MSME to support access to finance	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) www.ebrd.com
Risk Capital Facility Risk capital/venture capital to support SMEs Loans to microfinance institutions for on lending to micro enterprises.	European Investment Bank (EIB) www.eib.org
MENA SME Guarantee Fund Guarantee funds to cover losses of local banks lending new funds to MSMEs	Agence Française de Développement (AFD) www.afd.fr
SEMED MSME Financial Inclusion MSME credit lines and capacity building to local financial institutions	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) www.ebrd.com

**TOGETHER WE
CAN GROW
YOUR BUSINESS**



EU Initiative for
Financial Inclusion

Funded by the European Union

Facilitating access to finance

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) contribute significantly to GDP and job creation across the southern Mediterranean region of the Middle East and North Africa. Thus, they have the potential to make even greater contributions to their respective economies when given the right funding. Yet, most do not have access to funding, and this limits their growth. This is where the European Union Initiative for Financial Inclusion (EUIFI) aims to step in and provide MSMEs with financing options and support.

What is the EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion?

The EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion (EUIFI) was created in 2016 to facilitate and expand access to finance for MSMEs and innovative start-ups in the southern Mediterranean region of the Middle East and North Africa, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia. The EUIFI comprises five individual but complementary programmes operated in partnership with four key European financial institutions: KfW; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); European Investment Bank (EIB); Agence Française de Développement (AFD).



Graphic designer and glass artist in Lebanon received a loan from KfW

The scope of EUIFI

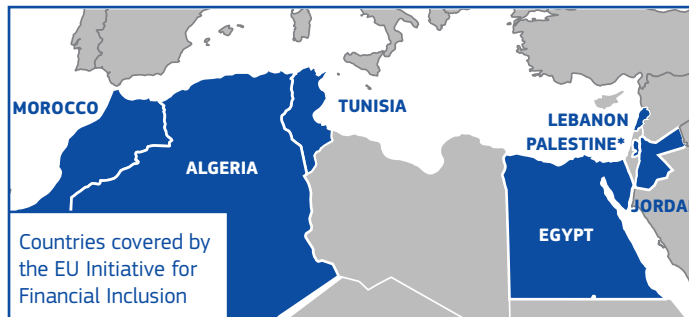
The EUIFI aims to reach up to **200 000** MSMEs in the southern Mediterranean region of the Middle East and North Africa through:

- Microfinance through local financial institutions and capacity building.
- Risk capital/venture capital to support SMEs; loans to microfinance institutions for on-lending to micro enterprises.
- Advisory services to MSMEs.
- MSME credit lines and capacity building to local financial institutions.
- Guaranteeing funds to incentivise local banks to lend new funds to MSMEs.

EUIFI Facts

More than 1.5 billion euros expected to be mobilised

More than 200 000 MSMEs benefitting



* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

How does this Initiative work?

Using grants from the European Commission with loans from four leading European finance institutions (EFIs), the EUIFI provides access to finance and support to MSMEs through local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), microfinance institutions and local banks with whom the EFIs have established agreements.

Why is the EUIFI important?

The millions of MSMEs across the region represent a vast potential for economic growth and job creation. Currently, their access to finance is limited. By addressing the gap in the lending and financing system, the EUIFI can help MSMEs grow their revenue, leading to the creation of more employment opportunities for others. This in turn has even wider benefits for society, contributing to greater social stability, more equal income distribution, and economic diversification for the region.

MSME Facts

MSME Finance in the Mediterranean Partner Countries

80-95% of businesses are MSMEs

20-40% of all private sector employment is generated by MSMEs

Less than 20% of SMEs have a loan or credit line

Only about 10% of local banks' investments go to SMEs



Hair and beauty salon owner in Tunisia received a loan from EBRD