

Access to finance for female entrepreneurs: creating opportunity!

European Investment Bank | 98, bvd Konrad Adenauer, Luxembourg | East building, Room E4226

Thursday, 7 March 2019

13:30 – 14:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

14:00 – 14:15 **Welcome Remarks - Marjut Santoni**, Secretary General, EIB

14:15 – 14:45 **Presentation of the Key Findings of the Innovation Finance Advisory Study**
Shiva Dustdar, Head of Division Innovation Finance Advisory, EIB

14:45 – 15:45 **Panel Session 1: A growth mindset for female entrepreneurship**

Scene-setter: benefits for inclusive growth, policy measures needed, best practices in other countries.

*Moderator: **Monica Dietl**, Senior Advisor for Healthy Measures initiative, Science|Business Network*

Shiva Dustdar, Head of Division Innovation Finance Advisory, EIB

Elise Badoy, Deputy Head of Research EMEA, Citigroup Global Markets

Alessandro Cenderello, Managing Partner for EU Institutions and Head of the EY Fast Forward Women programme, EY

Alexandra Dimitrijevic, Global Head of Research and Analytics, S&P Global Rating

Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke, Founder and Managing Director, Women's Worldwide Web (W4)

15:45 - 16:15 **Snapshot - women entrepreneurs in action**

*Moderator: **Una Clifford**, Senior Strategy Advisor, EIB*

Paulina Olsson, CEO, Peppy Pals

Gaelle Haag, CEO and Co-founder, Star Talers

Giulia Houston, Responsible for Institutional Relations and Communication, Progetto Quid

16:15 - 17:15 **Panel Session 2: Creating opportunity**

Building on the snapshot of examples of female entrepreneurship, this panel will discuss concrete measures that support female entrepreneurs and create opportunity.

*Moderator: **Una Clifford**, Senior Strategy Advisor, EIB*

Rafaèle Tordjman, Founder and CEO, Jeito

Mathilde Argaud, Innovation Project Manager, Geprolux

Kristin Lang, Head of Division, Operations Directorate, EIB

Addie Pinkster, Founder and CEO, Adelpha Group

17:15 - 17:30 **Closing conversation with **Bertrand de Mazières****, Director General for Finance, EIB, **Maria Leander**, Secretary General, European Investment Fund, and **Constance Kann**, Director Institutional Relations and Public Affairs, EIB and co-founder of WECAN

17:30 - 18:30 **Cocktail reception**

Event narrative:

Women are starting and growing businesses at a remarkable rate. These firms represent up to 38 percent of all registered small businesses worldwide. The rationale for women's entrepreneurship had traditionally focused on enhancing women's equality, empowerment and social inclusion but increasingly it has become clear that its development makes good economic sense. Women entrepreneurs can be a powerful economic resource.

Global studies demonstrate that women entrepreneurs make significant contributions to economic growth and poverty reduction, not only in developing countries but also in high-income countries. Besides boosting employment, women's entrepreneurship also supports the diversification of business, stimulating innovation and diversification in management, in production and marketing practices as well as in products and services.

The financial crisis has, however, served to heighten inequalities in the EU. This is particularly true in the area of entrepreneurship. Despite women's increasing participation in the labour market, women remain substantially underrepresented among self employed workers. During the 2008-2012 period, the share of self employed women compared to the total number in employment (10%) is much smaller than the corresponding share for men (18%), across the EU-28 Member States. Gender inequalities in entrepreneurship include access to credit, finance and capital. Moreover, EIGE research demonstrates that the gender pay gap for self employment stands at 45% at EU level.

On the eve of 2019 International Women's Day, the EIB and guests will take a look at the EU environment for female entrepreneurship, assessing the challenges and vast range of opportunities in today's economy. With examples from the private sector, the audience will gain an insight into current and future practices in investing in female entrepreneurs in and around the EU.