



# SME FINANCE FORUM

- ACCELERATING FINANCE FOR BUSINESSES -



Knowledge  
exchange and data

Networking  
and convening

Advocacy  
and policy change



# SMEs—Force for Growth and Job Creation



Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are engines of job creation and growth. Small, dynamic firms make an oversized contribution to their economies.

SMEs account for about **90 percent of businesses**, and more than **50 percent of employment worldwide**. The entrepreneurs behind these growing enterprises—often women—are a powerful, if sometimes overlooked, force for economic development.

But major obstacles stand in their way. Seventy percent of formal micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have no access to the external finance they need to grow their businesses, and another **15 percent are under-financed**.

We need to help the entrepreneurs of the world do what they do best: build businesses and create jobs.

## SMEs—An Untapped Business Opportunity

To grow, businesses need financing. Most SMEs already have bank accounts, and they are active users of financial services. But the sector is substantially underserved. The gap between the financing that's provided, and what MSMEs need, is huge: for formal MSMEs alone it may be as high as \$1.7 trillion. **For both formal and informal MSMEs worldwide, there's a shortfall of \$3.2-\$3.9 trillion.** Some \$2.1-\$2.6 trillion of that is in emerging markets.

For those institutions that work out how to effectively serve small and medium enterprises, SME financing becomes one of their top asset classes. We're here to help financial institutions of all shapes and sizes succeed in financing SMEs.

The SME Finance Forum, an initiative of the G-20, works to expand access to finance for small and medium businesses. The Forum operates a global membership network that brings together financial institutions, technology companies, and development finance institutions to share knowledge, spur innovation, and promote the growth of SMEs. Managed by IFC, the SME Finance Forum was established in 2012.

The SME Finance  
Forum—accelerating  
access to finance  
for medium and small  
businesses

# Join The SME Finance Forum

Members of the SME Finance Forum include financial institutions, fintech companies, and development finance institutions from all around the world.

Members share a common commitment to advancing SME finance so that small and medium enterprises flourish and grow. Join us and become part of a global forum dedicated to SME finance.

**If you are interested in becoming a member of the SME Finance Forum, please contact:**

**Matthew Gamser, CEO**  
mgamser@ifc.org

## Member Benefits

**Members benefit from access to:**

- ◆ A broad array of knowledge resources, including **an interactive Web site** with 2,000+ documents, tools, and articles about SME finance.
- ◆ Online discussions. Join a community of over **4000 members on LinkedIn** to engage in daily discussions.
- ◆ Exclusive **access to high-level global and regional events**.
- ◆ Representation at key high-level forums, **including the G-20**.
- ◆ Member-only events, **including Webinars, and workshops**.
- ◆ **Access to a unique SME finance dataset**, customized data analysis and benchmarking against peers.
- ◆ **Reduced entrance fees** to key industry events.
- ◆ **Exchange visits** to high performing peers.



**“Information is both  
the biggest challenge and the biggest  
opportunity for SME finance...”**

Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum

**“Unmistakably the primary meeting point for a  
vibrant interaction with other stakeholders of  
the SME Finance world.”**

Federico Bilder, Access Holdings

**“The SME Finance Forum connects industry  
thought leaders and key decision makers to  
help SMEs all around the world gain access  
to the finance they need to grow  
their businesses.”**

Diana Wang, CEO, DHGate

**“The SME Finance Forum offers the broad  
perspective of participants in the ecosystem  
for the promotion of small business finance,  
from governments, NGOs, financial  
institutions, and technology  
solutions providers...”**

Thomas J. DeLuca, CEO, AMP Credit Technologies

**Interested in becoming a member?**

Please contact Matthew Gamser, CEO  
[mgamser@ifc.org](mailto:mgamser@ifc.org)